THE

North-China Herald

AND

SUPREME COURT & CONSULAR GAZETTE.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

NOTIFICATION.
No. 6.

A LAND-RENTER'S MEETING will be held at H. B. M.'s CONSULATE, CHINKIANG, at 2 P.M., on the 8th of MARCH, to elect a Municipal Council, pass the Municipal Accounts, discuss the expediency of levying Wharfage dues, &c.

CHALONER ALABASTER,
Vice-Consul.

H.B.M.'s CONSULATE,
Shanghai, 27th Feb., 1872. 578 2ma

ESTATE OF JOHN MARKHAM,
LATE H. B. M.'s CONSUL AT SHANGHAI, (DECEASED.)

ALL Persons indebted to the late MR. CONSUL MARKHAM are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and all Persons having Claims against his estate are requested to file them on or before the 1st day of MARCH 1872.

CHARLES J. KING,
For the Administratrix,
CAROLINE M. MARKHAM.
tf 2974 Shanghai, 14th Nov., 1871.

NOTICE TO MARINERS.

No. 6 OF 1872.

WOOSUNG BAR.

THE Two New Poles, recently erected at Woosung, 900 feet further up the River than the old ones, should be kept in line when crossing the Inner Bar. The low Pole, with a pyramidal top, is the front one; whilst the high Pole, with a rectangular top, is the back one or the one further from the River's Bank.

On or about the 1st of March, the three Old Poles will be removed, and a Red low Light on the River's Bank with a White high one on the low Pole, will indicate at night the line now given by the New Poles.

Any deep draft steamer requiring to cross the Bar at night, may, by making application to the Officer-in-charge of the Woosung Station, arrange to have a light hoisted on the Signal Staff, to show when there is water enough for her to cross.

DAVID M. HENDERSON,
Engineer-in-Chief.

Engineer's Office, Custom House,
Shanghai, 12th Feb., 1872. 2ma 422

Miscellaneous Intelligence.

BIRTHS.

At Shanghai, 22nd February, the wife of J. H. Mackie, of a daughter.

On February 29th, the wife of JOHN FRYER, Esq., of a son.

DEATHS.

At Hongkong, on the 16th inst., HERBERT HANCOCK, Esq., late of Shanghai.

At Shanghai, on the 26th instant, ROWLAND WYNNE WILLIAMS of Hankow.

LATEST MAIL DATES.

England	Jan. 12	Hankow,	Feb. 23
San Francisco	Dec. 31	Yokohama,	„ 14
Hongkong,	Feb. 24	Nagasaki	„ 19
Tientsin,	„ 12	Foochow,	„ 24

Latest Mail dates in England, from China,
Hongkong, ...Nov. 29 } Received via Brindisi,
Shanghai, ... „ 22 } Jan. 6.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.—Per *Glendarroch*, from Hongkong—Miss F. Temple. Per *Costa Rica*—Mr. and Mrs. Drucker, Messrs. F. P. Knight, S. C. Farnham and C. P. Melhuish. Per *Ping On*—Captain Sherman. Per *Yuen-tze-fei*, from Foochow—Mr. Haslam. Per P. & O. Co.'s S. S. *Geelong*—E. H. Oliver, Esq.

DEPARTED.—Per M. M. S. S. *Alphée*, for Hongkong—Dr. Hughes. For Marseilles—Mr. H. J. Rosenthal, Mrs. and Miss Vidal. Per *Costa Rica*, for Nagasaki—Mr. Fonseca. For Yokohama—Mr. and Mrs. Davis, Messrs. Kagana, Tsda and Nava. For San Francisco—Col. Morland. For Liverpool—G. M. Hewart and J. H. Buxton.

THERMOMETER—SHANGHAI.

DATE.	1872. Night. Min.	1872. Day. Max.	1871. Night. Min.	1871. Day. Max.
Feb. 22	40	45	33	44
„ 23	40	55	29	46
„ 24	41	48	31	47
„ 25	36	44	34	43
„ 26	34	45	36	52
„ 27	33	50	36	58
„ 28	36	47	33	39

METEOROLOGICAL TABLE.

(WOOSUNG.)

Date 1872.	Time of High or Low Water.	Water on Bar.	Wind.	Force.	I.	Bar.	Ther.
	h. m.	ft. in.				° ′	°
Feb. 19 H.W.	8.30	17.05	S. E.	4	m	30.54	41
„ 19 L.W.	4.32	12.08	„	5	o	30.44	43
„ 20 H.W.	9.54	18.05	S.E by S.	4	c	30.48	48
„ 20 L.W.	5.50	12.01	East	4	o	30.43	42
„ 21 L.W.	6.17	12.05	N Eby N.	3	o	30.44	40
„ 21 H.W.	11.08	19.03	E. by N.	3	m	30.47	44
„ 22 L.W.	6.58	11.09	N. E.	2	o	30.35	41
„ 22 H.W.	0.05	19.08	N Eby E.	3	c	30.34	49
„ 23 L.W.	7.48	11.06	E. by N.	2	b	30.37	46
„ 23 H.W.	0.44	20.03	„	3	b	30.34	51
„ 24 L.W.	8.44	11.05	N. E.	3	c	30.35	44
„ 24 H.W.	1.24	20.09	„	4	r	30.32	45
„ 25 L.W.	9.15	11.11	N. N. E.	5	r	30.37	40
„ 25 H.W.	2.04	21.03	N.E.	4	c	30.32	41

EXPLANATION

F. Force (1 to 12.) I. Initials; b. blue sky; c. cloud f. fog; h. hail; l. lightning; m. misty (hazy); o. overcast (dull); r. rain; s. snow; t. thunder; z. calm.

THE publication of the *North-China Herald and Supreme Court & Consular Gazette* commenced at 6 P.M.

The North-China Herald.

IMPARTIAL, NOT NEUTRAL.

SHANGHAI, THURSDAY, FEB. 29, 1872

WE are able to lay before our readers, to-day, a despatch in which the French Government finally closes the episode of the Tientsin massacre. In concise but lucid terms, M. Remusat sketches the progress of negotiations from Chunghow's arrival at Bordeaux, in January 1871, till his departure for China. The French Government took, from the outset, the view which we have always urged, that the temporary banishment to the Amoor of Officials whose connivance at the riot was apparent, is an inadequate punishment; and demanded further guarantees of the sincerity of the Emperor, in his professions of regret and precaution. The receipt in Peking of these demands, apparently led to the promise by the Government, announced in the *N.-C. Herald* of June 2nd, to affix the words "Imperial Gift" to the new Mission premises. No more powerful talisman exists in China, than the two characters which convey this meaning; and nothing would better convince the people of the Emperor's desire that missionaries should be respected, than their appearance over the Mission gateway. The reluctance with which the Go-

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vernment consented, proves the importance attached to their use. By this and other assurances, the Chinese at length succeeded in satisfying the French Government; and M. Thiers departed from his original resolve, so far as to admit Chung-how to a formal audience.

M. Remusat's despatch of the 9th November puts on record these incidents; and, as we have said before, closes the negociation which had been going on during the previous eighteen months, for the settlement of the difficulty. But in doing so, and in announcing the departure for Peking of a new Minister, M. Remusat gives the Emperor clearly to understand, that he expects the courtesy shown by the President of the French Republic to the Ambassador of China, will be shown by the Emperor to the Representative of France. It was only on Chung-how's assurance that he would impress, on his Master, the urgency of yielding the right of Audience, that M. Thiers consented to anticipate this concession, and to set the example of courtesy. What may be the value of Chunghow's assurance, we shall not stay to enquire. What is important, is the spirit of French policy. Evidently M. Geofroy will ask, at once, that this courtesy be reciprocated; and we trust that he will press for a definite answer. The solution of the question lies in the hands of the Foreign Ministers themselves. If they unite in demanding to be received, the Emperor dare not refuse. If it be left to one man to essay the attack, he will almost certainly be unsuccessful.

The recent assault on H. M. Minister, referred to in our Summary of News, will very probably hasten on the question. M. Wade will no doubt argue that open insult to a Foreigner walking quietly through the streets of Peking, —even if his official rank were not known—implies an ignorance of the real position and power of Foreigners, for which the Government is greatly responsible. This is a point on which Mr. Wade has often dwelt, in his despatches to the Tsung-li Yamen, and he will not press the matter less vigorously, that he can prove from his own experience the truth of his assertion. The Chinese Government can, if it chooses, teach its people that the old idea of "foreign devils" and "outer barbarians" is no longer applicable to Foreigners; that these are at least equal in intelligence and civilisation with the sons of Han, and are entitled to be treated with courtesy and consideration. So far from doing this, however, it is notorious that Foreigners are commonly named by these opprobrious epithets, even within the precincts of the Palace; and the people naturally take their tone from their Rulers. It is time they were made, if necessary, to change this tone; it is time the Representatives of Foreign Powers—either one of which is as superior to China in strength and civilisation as China is superior to Corea—should insist on being shown the courtesy which is extended in the West by the most powerful Sovereign to the Minister of the weakest; and it is a hundredfold more than time that explicit compliance should be insisted on, with both the letter and the spirit of Art. VIII of the Peking convention, which stipulates that "the Emperor of China shall, by decree, command the high authorities of the capital and the provinces to print and publish the aforesaid (Tientsin) treaty and the present Peking convention, for general information."

Summary of News.

The French mail of January 5th arrived on the 23rd.

The English mail of January 12th arrived yesterday.

Questions of taxation still continue to occupy the French Assembly. A project of imposing an extra duty on merchandise imported in Foreign ships is being discussed. The Government has notified that it will not levy differential duties on Indian Cotton or Jute imported in English and French bottoms. Although M. Thiers and his Ministers have retaken office, it is feared that differences of opinion between him and the Assembly will again arise. Active party movements of the Versailles factions and Orleanist Legitimists are reported. The *Alabama* question continues to cause uneasiness. The *New York Herald* says that the American Members on the Joint Commission admit that America is placed in an awkward position by the indirect claims, from which she cannot well withdraw. Vice-President Colfax, in a speech, said that neither England nor America dare destroy the Washington Treaty. The case put forward by England repudiates the justice of the pecuniary claims raised; it regrets the escape of the cruisers, but America must solidly establish England's negligence, and demonstrates that a vigilant neutrality was observed; also agrees to accept the decision of the Tribunal of Geneva, whether favorable or unfavorable, and only asks for justice. The American Congress has abolished the Tea Duties. The Finance Committee of the American Senate opposes the measure. Sir Arthur Edward Kennedy's appointment to the governorship of Hongkong has appeared in the Gazette, and he leaves for the Colony on the 29th February.

The following ships have arrived during the fortnight:—*Glaucus*, s.s. Liverpool; *Gordon Castle*, *Carmarthenshire*, London; *Oscar Mooyer*, Sydney; *Madanaska*, Puget Sound; *Surprise*, New York.

A homeward mail leaves to-morrow, by the P. & O. str. *Sunda*.

The state of the Woosung bar required the *Sunda* to leave yesterday afternoon. Passengers and cargo will have to be sent down after her.

A meeting of shareholders in the Hongkew Wharf Company was held on the 23rd. The accounts show a net profit on the nine months during which the Company had been working, up to the 31st Dec., of Tls. 18,355. A dividend at the rate of 12 per cent per annum, and a further bonus of Tls. 1.50 per share, was declared, besides returning 20 per cent of the net profits to contributors. Tls. 1,000 were voted as remuneration to the retiring Directors. Messrs. Michie, Miller, Harrison, Nissen and Barnes were elected Directors for the current year.

A meeting of the friends and supporters of the Female School Society was held on the 26th. The report shows that the progress of the school has been satisfactory. The accounts show a balance in hand of $127.

A meeting of the Rowing Club was held on the 26th. The accounts show a balance in hand of Tls. 235. Some alterations were made in the Rules of the Club. Messrs. Little (Captain), Bird, Clarke, Lindsley and Schuffenhauer were elected a Committee for the current year.

A meeting of members of the Race Club was held on the 27th. The accounts showed a balance in hand of Tls. 3,467. It was resolved to reduce Mr. Keswick's loan by the payment of Tls. 1,000, out of this sum. Messrs. C. J. King. G. W. Coutts, Dallas, Ringer, Nissen and Kaye were elected stewards for 1872.

A meeting of shareholders in the China Fire Insurance Company was held in Hongkong on the 19th inst. The accounts show a net balance at the end of 1871, after paying all charges, interest, &c., of $140,000. Of this sum, $60,000 was carried to Reserve, and $80,000 carried forward to 1872.

A meeting of shareholders in the Hongkong Fire Insurance Company was also held in Hongkong on the 20th. The accounts show a net profit for 1870 of $164,112; out of which the usual dividends have been paid, and $78,000 carried to the Reserve Fund, which now stands at $268,000. The working account for 1871 shows a balance of $176,512. Messrs. Sassoon, Welles, Buxey, McDouall and Hunter were elected a consulting committee.

Telegraphic communication between Shanghai and Hongkong was re-established on the 23rd.

The benefit of the double line of telegraph from Shanghai to Europe has been already felt, during temporary breaks in communication along one or the other route. A second advantage is now made apparent; the competition of the Great Northern line across Siberia has induced the China and Submarine Co. to lower its rates to the cheaper tariff adopted by the former. On and after the 1st March, the rate for Telegrams of 20 words to Europe, by the direct submarine route, via Suez, will be $21.50.

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It is intended that the first steamers for Tientsin shall start on Sunday morning next. The *Manchu* and the *Appin* are advertised.

We publish below an important despatch from the French Government to Prince Kung, closing the Tientsin negociation and Chunghow's Embassy. It explains Mr. Thiers' first refusal to receive Chung-how—on the ground that the French Representative is not received by the Emperor—and his subsequent departure from this resolve, on the receipt of further despatches from Prince Kung which persuaded him of the good intention of the Chinese Government. Throughout the despatch, this question of right of Audience is strongly dwelt on; and we believe Chung-how left Europe with a full conviction that it would have to be granted.

We have to acknowledge the Journal of the North-China Branch of the Asiatic Society for 1869-70. The delay in publication, has we believe, been chiefly owing to the expense for rent under which the Society has been lying. Now that it is relieved from this difficulty, by having a house of its own, we may hope to see its transactions appear more punctually.

A TIENTSIN correspondent gives us some particulars of the working of a Fund established by the foreign community, for the relief of the native population. The amount subscribed has been distributed among the neighboring villages, in the proportion explained by our correspondent —the distributing Committee being accompanied by a Chinese official appointed by the Viceroy for the purpose. The river was open off the settlement, on the 12th; but it was closed from Kokoo to the sea, chiefly through easterly winds having blown ice from the head of the Gulf into the mouth of the Peiho.

The *Evening Courier* published the following particulars of an assault committed on H. M. Minister, by some street rowdies in PEKING. "The facts, as communicated to us by a Pekin correspondent and subsequently confirmed by information officially conveyed to us, are, that Mr. Wade, being called bad names by some youths in the street, remonstrated with them, when the offence was repeated, and one of the oldest of them at length went so far as to commit an assault on Mr. Wade, for which he was apprehended and punished."

There has been a small riot in CHINKEANG, about a new tax lately imposed by the Chehsien. And hardly had this been quieted, by the withdrawal of the obnoxious impost, when a new excitement arose in consequence of Mr. Salter, the agent of the S. S. N. Co. at Chinkeang, turning off some squatters from land lately purchased by him on the river bank. A mob assembled and pelted the S. S. N. hulk &c.; the Consuls called on the Chinese authorities to take measures for repressing the disturbance and protecting the Settlement; and a guard of soldiers was posted for the purpose. We fancy the row is over, now; and that there is no cause for further alarm.

Business was recommenced in HANKOW, after the New Year holidays, on the 14th. Rates for imports are about the same as before the holidays. But a good many of the country dealers have not yet returned, and an increased demand is expected, shortly. Chen-kwo-jui is staying in the city, but is said to be poorer, in purse and influence, than of yore; and attracts little attention!

A NINGPO correspondent writes:—Our little church being finished, a meeting was held yesterday, E. Solbé, Esq., in the chair, when it was decided to invest the church in the names of three Trustees viz: R. Swinhoe H. M.'s Consul, Francis White, Com. I. C., and Rev. W. A. Russell, the head of the Church Mission here. It is to be called "Christ Church," and will be opened for divine service on Sunday next. We are still $360 in debt, but trust soon to wipe this out, somehow or the other. H. M. S. *Cockchafer* left Ningpo on Saturday for Shanghai, on her way to Chinkeang. The *Dove* is to take her place. Some Chinese merchants and bankers have started a free ferry close to the Bridge of Boats; and are said to purpose continuing it until they run the bridge off, or can buy it cheaply. This is hardly a fair proceeding, in Ningpo; but wouldn't a few Shanghai merchants and bankers, either foreign or native, like to make a similar effort on the Soochow Creek?

A correspondent of the *Advertiser* writes that during the Chinese holidays, business has been entirely at a standstill in SWATOW. The material for the Lighthouse which is to be built on Lomoch Island, has arrived from England, and work will probably be commenced during the coming spring. The Chinese cruiser *Feihoo* is expected to assist the constructing force.

A Court of enquiry has been held at the U. S. Consulate in HONGKONG, into the loss of the *Suwonada*. The Court exonerated Captain Clark from all blame, and expressed an opinion "that his conduct under the circumstances was that of a thorough seaman, a cool brave and judicious commander, and that to the exercise of these qualities are the survivors indebted for their lives." An action has been brought in the Vice-Admiralty Court against the P. & O. *Geelong*, for cutting down the bark *Glimt*. The Spanish steamer *Luzon* has broken her shaft and put into Labuan for repair. Admiral Shadwell arrived in Hongkong on the 20th, in his flagship *Iron Duke*. A salute was fired from the *Princess Charlotte* as he steamed into harbour, followed by similar compliments from the American, Russian, French and Italian men-of-war, which were returned by the flagship. The *Iron Duke* is a double-screw steamer of 800 horse power, and is armed with ten 12-ton guns, and four Armstrongs. She has a complement of 500 men. A regatta, got up by the U. S. flagship *Colorado*, was to come off on the morning of the first race-day. The *Advertiser* believes that many of the coast steamers are at present being overloaded—loaded that is to an extent sufficient, under certain circumstances, to make them partially unmanageable. It urges masters to steadily refuse receiving more cargo than their vessels can comfortably carry, and says the Insurance Companies are quite alive to the alleged too-prevailing custom. A remarkably successful entertainment is being given in Hongkong just now, by Mr. and Miss Heller. Conjuring, music, and clairvoyance by Miss Heller without mesmerism, appear to be the leading features. A meeting of shareholders in the Union Insurance Co. was held on the 16th inst., to confirm the resolutions regarding distribution of profits, agreed to at the meeting on the 2nd inst. The new Chinese hospital was opened by the Governor on the 14th. The *Advertiser* says "the three Customs Officials who accompanied Chung How to France have been disposed of as follows:—Mr. H. O. Brown goes to Canton as Acting Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Novion is sent to Amoy, and Mr. Imbert joins the Custom House at Swatow."

A Notice in the Hongkong *Gazette* intimates that complete tranquility again prevails in MANILA, and that there is now no "risk or impediment to commercial inter-communication between Hongkong and that port."

There is no news at all from HIOGO, except that the whole population is intent on the New Year holidays; and that the weather is bright, bracing, and appropriate for the season.

The Mikado received the congratulations of the Diplomatic Body, in YEDDO on the Japanese New Year's day. When shall we hear of the Chinese Emperor doing a similarly frank and intelligent thing? He has also taken the best way to quiet the excitement about his photograph, by giving a special sitting to a Japanese artist. A photograph of the Chinese Emperor would be less interesting, because he has shown less intelligence than the Mikado. But we shall probably have to wait another century before such an outrage on the Classics, the Fungshuay, and Celestial stagnation generally, will be permitted. We quoted, lately, an address by the Mikado to his principal nobles, advising travel as a means of acquiring knowledge. A notification to the same effect has been issued to all the ex-Chiji.

A meeting of the YOKOHAMA Chamber of Commerce was held on the 30th ultimo. Messrs. Marshall (chairman) Wilkin, Fraser, Atkinson, Thomas, Melhuish, Johnson, Greeven and Hooper were elected a Committee for the ensuing year. Branches of the Deutsche Bank are to be opened in Yokohama and Shanghai, under the management of Messrs. Seligmann and Mammelsdorff. Dr. Hill, R. N., has taken charge of the Lock Hospital, and Dr. Nelson, U. S. N., has been appointed to the new U. S. Naval Hospital which is being erected on the Bluff. A shock of an earthquake is recorded, as usual.

The telegraph informs us that the Viceroyalty of INDIA, vacant by the death of Lord Mayo, was first offered to Earl Kimberley, the present Secretary of State for the Colonies, but was declined by him. It has since been offered to and accepted by Lord Northbrook (late Sir T. G. Baring) at present Under Secretary of State for War. In the meantime Lord Napier, the present Governor of Madras, is appointed acting Governor-General.

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Editorial Selections.

THE CHINESE IN HONGKONG.

Notwithstanding the general want of judgment displayed in the Government of Hongkong, it is satisfactory to be able to trace the growth of a better feeling among the native residents. We have before this alluded to the Government schools, and the attempts they are making, with a considerable amount of success, to blend together all classes; the fundamental system of education in these institutions being based on a thorough knowledge of Chinese, which is made the vehicle for instruction in other branches of education. With Chinese, Eurasians, and East Indians, and even with European pupils, this has been found to answer, and a common and intelligible system of intercommunication has been introduced for the benefit of the permanent residents of the rising generation. In merely legal matters, the administration of the Colony has been successful in unexpected quarters. Notwithstanding the claims of the Chinese to an ancient and fairly developed code of equity, it is evident that they have, in the south at least, learned the superiority of English law and English justice. The number of cases tried between Chinese in the Colonial Courts, contrasts strangely with their natural repugnance to allow their affairs to come before their own national tribunals. Although we may accept it as a general *dictum*, that at least half of the parties concerned in lawsuits tried before the Colonial Courts were bound to be dissatisfied with the finding, the general feeling of the native residents in the Colony must have been favourable. Still more marked is the propensity of the Chinese to leave their estates to be administered by the Colonial Courts; no surer testimony could be adduced, to the general well working of the legal system, than that the pre-eminently home-bound Chinese should prefer to die on foreign soil, to save his worldly possessions from the rapacious hands of his own natural protectors. To have gained this mark of confidence, the Supreme Court of the Colony must have shown itself able to grasp with the innumerable questions which surround inheritance in China—unless indeed the very contrary be the fact; and that, by simply following out so far as was practicable the will of the deceased, or by reducing the affair to a plain matter of equity, it has succeeded in winning the confidence of a race by no means naturally confiding. Besides these marks of a desire to pull with the Government of the Colony, the Chinese residents have made a great step by erecting a hospital within the Colony, for their fellow-countrymen. This is the more remarkable as it has been a favourite cry, within the colony, that the Chinese residents did not afford that assistance in the preservation of peace and good order which might naturally have been expected from them. Although the notoriously corrupt condition and inefficiency of the native Indian police was, in our opinion, the real reason of this apparent apathy, which might have been removed by taking the Chinese into the confidence of the Government in matters of the police of the island, it was still a fact not to be denied, that even well-to-do and influential Chinese residents displayed little zeal in the apprehension and punishment of crime. Although we believe the present Governor to have misconceived the proper aim and organisation of the Police Force, we cannot withhold from him the credit of perceiving how much the prosperity of the Colony depended on the harmonious working of the two elements, native and European. The Chinese have, as a nation, often shown themselves ready to take an initiative in purely benevolent institutions. Probably no city in China is without its hospitals of one sort or other. The difficulty lies in the impossibility of securing a proper management, a difficulty which affects the whole body politic of the nation. Were moral apothegms to be of any avail in moulding the character of a nation, the Chinese, who who have been steeped in moral maxims from their infancy, ought to be the most moral of mankind. But experience shows us that every institution in the empire is hopelessly corrupt, and none more so than the benevolent societies which should ameliorate the sufferings of the poor and the diseased. It was therefore not without reason that Sir Richard Macdonnell insisted that the Chinese hospital, though managed by a committee of Chinese, was to be considered as a public institution, and that ordinances were passed to secure the due recognition of the fact. The Chinese themselves were apparently sufficiently cognisant of this weak point in their armour; but as soon as it was arranged that the building was to be subject to Colonial control, they came forward liberally and, with the aid of the subscription from the gambling fund, succeeded in erecting a building described as creditable to the Colony. This building, we are not sorry to observe, is to be largely endowed out of the gambling fund. Now that public gambling has ceased, we can agree in the main with the proposed distribution of the money which has flowed in from the indulgence of one of the great vices of the Chinese. A model hospital for China was sadly wanted, and we hope that the Chinese committee will not be wanting in their management of what we trust will be a credit to the Colony.

THE SPREAD OF TELEGRAPHY.

Of all the changes which have been introduced within the last quarter of a century, none has produced such marked results as the system of oceanic telegraphy. The world, but for one link, a wide one it is true, has now been compassed by telegraphic lines, and few places of importance are without either direct telegraphic communication or the near prospect of its completion. The two years just passed are especially noteworthy in respect of the amount of work done, which has placed China and the East generally in immediate correspondence with Europe, and, but for some untoward circnstances connected with the land lines of the Australian continent, would before this have placed the rising cities of the southern hemisphere in a similar position. A table lately published in the *Engineer* shows how much has really been done within those two years, both in the manufacture and laying of submarine cables. Experience has shown how much superior such lines are, in some points, to overland wires. The enormous distances over which their more perfect insulation enables a message to be sent without repetition, is at once a guarantee of greater speed and correctness; and the greater cost expended in their manufacture is thus, to some extent at least, compensated by their greater regularity in working. Of the cables laid down, by far the most important are those of the submarine lines between England and China which, under the management of the British Indian the China Submarine and four other Companies, now connect Hongkong and Australia, as well as British India and the intermediate ports, with England. Except the comparatively short lines between Madras and Bombay, and between Alexandria and Suez, a continuous series of submarine cables now connects us with Great Britain; of these, some 10,000 miles belong to the British Indian and associated lines, and some 900 to the Great Northern Company. The latter Company also connects us by some 1,200 miles of cable with the Russian port of Wladiwostock, whence the Russian Government wires extend through Siberia to the heart of Europe. Both these enormous undertakings have been brought to completion within the last two years, and have taxed to the utmost the resources of the various telegraphic works in England. It is remarkable that England still maintains a monopoly of this important branch of engineering; and though it would be too much to expect that this monopoly will continue, there are at present no symptoms of competition. Indeed the fact that the great centres of trade are now connected, seems rather to point to a diminution in the demand, till the requirements of commerce call either for new routes or an extension of old. The proposal for a fourth telegraphic cable across the Atlantic seems to be the first of a new series of competing lines; but in the present state of the science, it is difficult to see how a tariff much under existing rates can prove remunerative. We, however, notice with satisfaction that the Indian lines have resolved to lower their charges to a rate corresponding with that of their Northern competitor. Any system which would tend to lower the high rates at present charged would be a direct benefit to the public, though the receipts of the telegraph companies do not seem to be out of proportion to their heavy expenses. It may be accepted as an axiom, that a cable cannot accommodate more than a certain number of messages per day. Any attempt to increase this number by using higher power must inevitably result in the destruction of the line. The cable between Singapore and Hongkong absorbed a capital expenditure of one half a million sterling, or over £300 a mile—a large capital, on which interest

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has to be paid, in addition to an estimated working expenditure of some £1,300 per month. There is no doubt that the problem of the future is to discover a method whereby messages may be sent at less cost to the public, without interfering with the fair profits of investors. When this is accomplished, we may look forward to an extension of which the present lines will form but a small instalment.

OUR TELEGRAMS.

ONE of the disadvantages of our peculiarly isolated position is that we are compelled to trust, in great measure, to the shortest telegraphic summaries of what is going on in the rest of the world. We are literally at the "back o' beyant;" and though we lay no claim to the supposititious miracles recorded of that locality, we are now and then called on to interpret very dark riddles. It would be the height of presumption on our part to attempt too frequently, before the event, to interpret the oracles of the telegraphic deity; even though, like those of the Delphic Apollo, we may only have ourselves to blame for their misinterpretation. Who amongst us could fathom the deep meaning of the telegram, that missionaries transgressing the laws were to be handed over to the nearest Consul for punishment. It contained nothing in itself contrary to fact; it was on the contrary a plain *resumé* of Lord Granville's statement that missionaries are as other men, and that there were means to secure their punishment, as that of others, in case they transgressed the line between right and wrong. We all know how the oracle of old declared that "Crœsus having crossed the Halys would destroy a great army," and how Crœsus, acting on what he conceived to be its plain meaning, did cross that river, and destroy a great army—but unfortunately his own. The oracle has again spoken, and this time on the great Alabama question; but who amongst us would be bold enough to assert for certain its meaning? We only know that we have as yet received no message that war was imminent, so we are perforce compelled to await the more leisurely progress of the mails before pronouncing an opinion. Now and then, events so sharp and sudden that even the telegraph cannot throw a shade of dubiousness about them, do occur. The assassination of Lord Mayo, in its naked simplicity, is one of those which comes home to all of us; but for the ordinary routine of political events the telegraph, as we are blessed with it, is so curt and tantalising that we are left in a greater cloud of uncertainty than ever. The manufacture of telegrams is in fact an art in itself; and men devote themselves assiduously to getting as much news as possible into the twenty or thirty words to be telegraphed. In Europe, where an entire wire may be hired at a comparatively reasonable rate, verbatim reports can be, and are daily sent along the lines; but the laying of a submarine wire to China is an undertaking demanding the expenditure of millions of money; and no mere newspaper gossip can be expected to pay for its passage along such distances as between Singapore and Hongkong, or Hongkong and Shanghai. On the continent of Europe, where every city taps the line and draws its stock of news, the whole expense is that incurred from the last station; but here in China the distances are so excessive, and the cost of working so great, that we cannot afford to pay for more than the merest outline. It is probable that those engaged in the preparation of the telegrams do their best to condense as far and as plainly as possible. Knowing the context, however, they often seize on points which are unintelligible to us without a key. Now and then we feel disposed to growl at some apparent piece of spice which has been served up to us, that was plain and simple to one acquainted with the actual facts; but which is, to us, deprived of the necessary intermediate knowledge, little more than a puzzle of which we have lost the key. Were we even in possession of the whole of the telegrams sent forward to the East, we might be able to form a good idea of what was going on; but when telegrams only arrive at spasmodic intervals, and these consist of the most highly seasoned of the series, we must confess ourselves occasionally thrown on our beam ends. We have, however, apparently learned enough to show us that there is no great and immediate danger of a collision in Europe; and knowing this, it is perhaps as well we should suspend our judgment of minor details. Time, the great rectifier, will possibly right this in the long run; meanwhile, we may rest reasonably content that there is no really important event occurring in Europe or elsewhere, of which we do not receive advices sufficient at least to warn us of the possible event.

REVIEW.

Journal of N.-C. Branch of the R. A. Society for 1869 and 1870.

The sixth number of the new series of the Transactions of the North-China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, though late in appearance, forms a valuable contribution to our knowledge of China. The twelve papers contained are of various interest and value, but the Society has on the whole exercised a wise judgment in their selection. The first paper in the volume bears already a historic character, having been written by the late lamented Consul Markham. It describes the condition of a large portion of Shantung province as seen by a shrewd observer; and, independently of the source whence it sprang, will always have a considerable intrinsic value, as a faithful report on the condition of the province three years ago. The journey, which led the writer to Kiufow and Tsiu-hien, the burial places of the two great Chinese sages, Confucius and Mencius, respectively, are interesting in many respects. Not only did it pass through the classic land of Chinese tradition and history, but likewise through a district rich in its productions both mineral and agricultural. The iron bonds of mandarin exclusiveness, which prevent up to the present due use being made of either, are fairly shown, without any attempt being made to improve on the circumstances of the case. Suffice it to say, in a few words, that Mr. Markham, everywhere gladly welcomed by the people, was received with coldness or entirely avoided by the official class, with one notable exception—a Mandarin from Yang-chow, who had probably learned to respect a British official, in the course of his duties at that city. Mr. Mayers' two papers on the God of Literature and the late introduction of Gunpowder and Firearms into China are valuable as contributions to our historic knowledge of China. The former shows the strange manner in which the Chinese written language has assisted in building up a series of myths, correspondent in many respects with those of the Indo-European nations, but with yet a peculiarity of their own. How a constellation, by the chance sound and shape of a character used to represent it, becomes embodied in human shape, and how on to this gets engrafted a human legend of one Chang, a scholar of Tsze-t'ung in the fourth century, who owes his divinity to an imperial edict of the T'ang dynasty. In Mr. Mayers' own words: "the God called into being by an Imperial mandate has at the same time become wholly interfused with traditional ideas of a date anterior to the patent of his creation; and the result of this mixture of immemorial legends with modern official apotheosis may be seen at any of his temples, in the double personification to which the God of Literature is subjected." A similar phase of the same phenomenon is afforded in the Revd. Mr. Eitel's papers on the Fabulous Sources of the Huangho. Brahmanism and Buddhism agree so far in their cosmogony, as to place the source of the great rivers of the world in one vast central lake. When Buddhism spread to China, it was natural thus to account for the source of the Yellow-river, and as fact could not here lend its aid, fiction was called in. A lake in the form of a perfect square gives origin on its side to four great rivers, through outlets resembling respectively the mouths of a diamond lion, a silver cow, a golden elephant, and a glass horse. The mythology makers have been at work in China as elsewhere, and a rich field remains to be reaped by the scientific critic. Hitherto the labours of sinologues have been entirely devoted to the acquisition of what is, undoubtedly, one of the most difficult of languages. It is to their credit that they have built up a foundation on which the comparative philologist or mythologist can work. If men like Julien, Legge and Edkins have been lacking in the high qualities of scientific criticism, they have at least cleared the stage for those who have to come after them. The range of Chinese literature is now pretty well disclosed, the clearing work has already been accomplished, and we find laid out to our view a wonderful mass, ruinous indeed, and in some places totally destroyed, but in parts replete with information on the early history of the race. If the Chinese have myths of their own, we have stories respecting them and their arts but little removed from myths. Foremost of these

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we may note the widely prevalent belie; that, to the Chinese, the West is indebted for the knowledge of gunpowder and fire-arms. Mr. Mayers' learned paper on this subject may be considered as having for ever set this question at rest. We have in fact, in this instance, as in many others, claimed for the Chinese what they themselves never pretended to. While we have been laboriously persuading ourselves that our knowledge of the art of making explosive weapons was due to the Chinese, their writers have been content to leave their invention and improvement in the hands of Europeans. There were men, not many centuries ago, who had become *Hiberniores Hibernis ipsis*, to effect a reconciliation between two of whom a hole had to be cut in a church door for them to shake hands through, lest perchance they should see one another's faces during the operation; and there are men now in this nineteenth century of whom it may fairly be said that they are *Sinensiores Sinensis ipsis*. Increased knowledge of China and Chinese affairs is, however, fortunately for our civilisation, driving these would-be Chinese from one stronghold to another, so that at last we seem to be in a fairer way of advancement than at any previous epoch.

Outports.

CHINKEANG.

There has been a good deal of excitement at Chinkeang lately, on two distinct points.

First, was a row among the country people, caused by the imposition of an obnoxious land tax by the Chehsien. This created great excitement among the neighbouring villages, and led to an attack on the magistrate, as he was leaving the gates of the city. His hat was pulled off, the button torn out, his feathers broken, and various damage done to him which had the desired effect of procuring the repeal of the obnoxious tax—and this of course quieted the people. Calm having been restored, the Taotai called on the Military Commandant to quell the riot. This mandarin at once marched 500 men through all the neighbouring villages—and will no doubt get promotion for his gallantry. H. M. gunboat *Firm*, which had been under orders for Kiukiang, but had been detained, now left, deeming that all was peace.

A few days later, however, a fresh and totally distinct disturbance arose. Those who have visited Chinkeang will remember a canal which runs inland from the river, near the Custom House. For some distance below this, the river bank is lined with wretched mud and straw shanties, run up by squatters who had grown by habit to consider themselves almost tenants by right, of the ground. Recently, Mr. Salter bought a piece of this ground, some 300 or 400 yards below the Custom House. The S. S. N. hulk has been brought over and moored opposite this plot, quite close to the shore; and notice of ejectment has been given to the squatters on the land alongside. They objected, and stoned the hulk; as this is iron, they probably did not do much damage; but the affair was of course unpleasant, and the Consuls joined in requesting the Taotai to take measures for restoring quiet. This he did, by placing a guard on the bank. From our experience of Chinese character, we should fancy a few dollars distributed among the squatters would have been a more certain remedy.

HANKOW.

There is very little news that will interest your readers, to be given from this port just now. The Chinese new year festivities have for the most part ended. During most of the period, foreigners had to participate with the natives in the workless feature of this annual holiday. The Customs closed for eight days, and the Banks and Consulates for a period 'not exceeding' four days. Money and Law are the two most mighty, most pervading, and most unceasing powers of all earthly economies; hence, it is not surprising that Banks and Consulates cannot afford to be long closed.

The notorious Chen Kwo-jui has been a visitor in this town for the last month or more. His presence has caused no excitement, either among foreigners or natives. No one seems to know what is his purpose; no one cares to know. He is said to have an emptier purse, as well as less power, than he used to have; at all events, he has fewer followers than might have been expected.

Some of the native merchants and gentry of this place have recently undertaken a piece of "good" work—good for themselves and good for the public. At the confluence of the Han with the Yangtsze, there is an important jetty, called the Lung Wang Miau Ma-tsow—*i.e.* the jetty of the Dragon King's Temple. This point is the chief station of the ferryboats for crossing to Wuchang. The jetty, owing to the constant removal of the soil by the rushing streams, had become very dilapidated and dangerous. Through the liberality of the aforementioned merchants and gentry, the old jetty has been almost completely demolished, and a fine, extensive, wellbuilt one is rapidly rising in its place. This work will cost, it is said, over thirty thousand taels! It will no doubt be of some benefit to most of the individual subscribers, but this, I think, will be comparatively small, so that virtually it is a work *pro bono publico*. This is an instance, in addition to many others, that the 'heathen Chinee' has some good traits amid his mass of bad ones. The spirit of the great Yü has not wholly left the nation.

February 17, 1872.

TIENTSIN.

About 8 P.M. on the 3rd instant, we were all startled by a loud noise like rolling thunder or a continued explosion of gunpowder. Next morning, I ascertained that a quantity of gunpowder and live shells, which were stored in a high building—a kind of watch or guard house just above the arch of the North gate—had exploded; the building itself had been blown away; some eighty houses adjoining the north gate, in the main street inside the gate, had been blown down; a number of the inhabitants living in the houses, and people walking at the time in the adjoining streets, had been killed or more or less injured, and a few of Le-hung-chang's southern soldiers, who were stationed at the building on the archway, had been killed or wounded. The exact number of people killed was not known yesterday afternoon, as the debris of the buildings had not been searched. Soon after Le arrived at Tientsin, as Governor-General of Chihli, he stationed bodies of his southern soldiers at all the gates of the city, and stored certain buildings there, then and later, with ammunition for guns on the walls—gunpowder, live shells, and shot; with the object, we now learn from the Chinese people, of repelling any attack by the French on the city. As the guns on the walls could easily shell this settlement, it was, on the whole—seeing that we were just at the commencement of winter—rather fortunate for the householders of the British settlement that no such attack happened; otherwise, we should have been assuredly unhoused for the winter. As Le-hung-chang brought with him, besides 105,000 southern soldiers, artillerymen and riflemen, not including officers, I fear, however, we should have been soon put in a position not to require houses.

I was called up about, I fancy, 1½ o'clock last night, by my servants, to see an extraordinary reddish appearance of the sky which they could not understand. Fearing fires, I got up at once and went out to the north verandah, when I saw the sky from the north-west to the north-east, high up far above the horizon, in fact nearly overhead, of a dark crimson color. The color was steady and not flickering, as if arising from an immense conflagration of some large assemblage of houses. All round the horizon the sky was of a dull grey color. It was a most extraordinary sight, and I cannot account for it. Having only my sleeping clothes on and left a warm bed, I did not feel inclined to wait any time out in the cold, so I don't know from personal observation when the red color disappeared; but my watchman told me this morning that about three o'clock it had all gone. We have not noticed at Tientsin, as they have done at Chefoo, any shocks of earthquake this winter. The thermometer at daylight this morning stood at 27° Fahrenheit with a slight air from the East. Outside, where the sun has direct power, the thermometer is high all day, reaching to-day to 37°, and the ice on the lakes is melting fast, so that I begin to think we are done with the very cold weather for this winter. Yesterday, according to Chinese reckoning, spring began.

Great mortality prevails amongst the population in the surrounding villages, for want of food and fuel. The river is quite open to Takoo and is likely to remain so for this winter.

5th Feb. 1872.

The river is open off the British settlement, but from Takoo out to sea it is closed, chiefly through the late easterly winds having blown ice down from the head of the gulf to the mouth of the river. No steamers could get into Takoo at present. The temples in the city are crowded with destitute women and children, and the stench in them is so horrible, that it is almost feared, on the frost leaving us, we may be afflicted with a pestilence. When we have rain, the mat huts in which these people huddle away like dogs, will not protect them, and then disease must attack them. At present they receive daily a certain quantity of rice gruel, which keeps life in them.

The Chinese New-Year holidays, so far, have gone over very quietly. The population had little money to spend in luxuries, as the trading people did little business by comparison with former years. A meeting has been called for to-morrow, to elect stewards for the Tientsin races for 1872. I have not heard where the course will be, and I should think there is not any chance of the spring races at least being held on any of our old courses. I presume that a place has been thought of somewhere, or the meeting would not have been called. We missed the races very much last autumn, they being our principal amusements in former years. We are having remarkably fine weather; no storms, and fine clear sky; at nights the thermometer goes down to 21° or 24°, and during the day in the shade it rises to 36° or 37° Fahrenheit. A walk in the middle of the day is extremely pleasant. The phenomenon of the red sky on the night of the 4th instant has been fruitful in talk amongst the Chinese; they conclude, of course, that it foretells some remarkable event which will take place to the present dynasty or the North of China. For the better protection of the settlement against thieves, some of the foreign community have lately formed themselves into a night guard to patrol the roads,

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till after the Chinese holidays, in addition to the Municipal Council police force composed entirely of Chinese.

* * * *

12th Feb.

Official Papers.

M. REMUSAT à S. A. I. LE PRINCE KUNG.

VERSAILLES, le 6 Novembre, 1871.

PRINCE,—J'ai l'honneur de répondre à la lettre de votre Altesse relative aux évènements de Tientsin, et qui a été remise à mon prédécesseur, dans le courant du mois de Mars, par l'Ambassadeur Tchong-Heou.

Lorsque la nouvelle de ces horribles évènements parvint en France l'année dernière, et qu'on apprit qu'un Consul du Gouvernement, des prêtres vénérables, des sœurs de charité uniquement dévouées aux bonnes œuvres et dignes de tous les respects avaient été massacrés par une populace aveuglée, sans que les Autorités du lieu eussent fait ce qu'elles auraient dû pour arrêter ces malheurs, une indignation générale s'empara des esprits, et l'on put croire que les relations des deux Gouvernements allaient être sérieusement troublées. Mais notre Chargé d'Affaires de France à Pékin, M. de Rochechouart, ayant fait savoir que le Gouvernement Chinois avait spontanément ordonné certaines mesures de réparation, et décidé l'envoi d'un Ambassadeur près de nous, toutes déterminations furent suspendues jusqu'à l'arrivée de cet agent.

L'Ambassadeur Tchong Heou arriva en effet à la fin de l'hiver à Bordeaux. De là il vint à Versailles, où il fut reçu par le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères d'alors, et conformément à la lettre de Votre Altesse, il fit connaître officiellement que le Gouvernement Impérial avait puni de mort une vingtaine des coupables de Tientsin, exilé un nombre égal, dégradé et déporté le Préfet et le Sous-Préfet, convaincus d'avoir trempé dans l'émeute; qu'une indemnité était destinée aux familles des victimes et à la reconstruction des édifices détruits, et qu'enfin il était porteur d'une lettre de l'Empereur exprimant ses regrets de ce déplorable attentat, ainsi que sa ferme intention d'aviser à ce que de semblables crimes ne se renouvellent plus à l'avenir.

Un Commissaire fut désigné pour examiner ces divers points et en conférer avec votre Ambassadeur. Le choix du Gouvernement s'arrêta sur M. de Geofroy, haut fonctionnaire du Département des Affaires Etrangères, déjà nommé précédemment pour remplir les fonctions de Ministre Plénipotentiaire en Chine, en remplacement du Cte. de Lallemand.

Plusieurs conférences furent tenues successivement au Palais de Trianon et ensuite à Paris.

Tout d'abord il parut au Commissaire Français, de même que le Cte. de Rochechouart l'avait déjà représenté à V.A., qu'en ce qui concernait les deux magistrats coupables de connivence, l'action de la justice n'avait pas été assez sévère, et il invita votre Envoyé à rechercher avec lui les moyens de compléter ce que l'ensemble de ces réparations présentait d'insuffisant, en stipulant au moins certaines garanties pour l'avenir.

L'Ambassadeur ayant allégué qu'il était sans pouvoirs à cet égard, il en fut référé à Pékin.

Dans l'intervalle, et en attendant les instructions de V. A., votre Envoyé ne fit pas difficulté de s'entretenir de plusieurs questions qui se rapportaient à l'objet limité de sa mission. Il examina, notamment, avec M. de Geofroy, le projet de règlement en huit articles, relatif à l'exercice de la religion Chrétienne en Chine. Les deux négociateurs échangèrent aussi leurs idées au sujet de l'audience Impériale.

En ce qui concerne le projet de règlement en huit articles, il a été facile à notre Commissaire de montrer le peu de fondement des allégations sur lesquelles on a prétendu appuyer cette innovation, et l'impossibilité d'y donner suite sans violer manifestement les traités. Il n'a pas hésité, du reste, à admettre la justesse de quelques unes des observations de votre Ambassadeur. Procès-verbal a été dressé des ces conférences, relu et reconnu exact par les deux parties.

Nous avons appris plus tard que le projet, réfuté victorieusement par les principales Légations Etrangères à Pékin, aussi bien que par nous, venait d'être retiré. Nous ne pouvons que louer le Tzong Ly Yamen, de la prudence qu'il a montrée dans cette circonstance.

Un autre point d'une haute importance a été abordé ainsi que je l'ai dit plus haut: c'est celui de l'audience Impériale et de la réciprocité que s'accordent en pareil cas tous les gouvernements suivant les usages internationaux. Après avoir rappelé les précédents et les réserves formelles faites à l'occasion de la mission de M. Burlingame, le Commissaire Français a fait ressortir la nécessité de régler enfin cette affaire conformément au droit et à la dignité des deux Gouvernements en établissant leurs relations officielles sur le pied d'une parfaite égalité et d'une considération réciproque. Votre Ambassadeur a reconnu que ce règlement ne pouvait, en effet, être plus longtemps retardé, et qu'il en résulterait un grand bien pour les rapport mutuels et pour l'expédition des affaires.

Cependant, M. Lemaire était venu de Chine porteur des instructions supplémentaires de V.A. pour l'Ambassadeur Tchong, et il nous fit en même temps connaître les décisions prises par le Gouvernement Impérial au sujet du cimetière de Tien-tsin. Nous avons vu, dans ces nouvelles mesures, qui ne pourront manquer de faire impression sur l'esprit du peuple, une preuve de bonne volonté et d'un sincère désir de nous satisfaire; d'autre part, l'Ambassadeur Tchong nous ayant déclaré par écrit, qu'aussitôt après son retour à Pékin, il saisirait l'Empereur lui même de toutes les difficultés pendantes, et en presserait respectueusement la solution, le Président de la République Française prenant acte de ces assurances, et voulant donner une marque de son esprit de conciliation et de la considération particuliere qu'il professe pour l'Empereur, a décidé qu'il recevrait en audience solennelle, des mains de votre Ambassadeur, la lettre Impériale dont il était porteur.

V. A. aura déjà eu connaissance des détails de cette cérémonie et des paroles qui y ont été prononcés par le Président. Elle aura vu que le Gouvernement Français ne souhaite pas moins que vous de voir s'effacer toute trace de la mésintelligence créée par les deplorables evénements de Tientsin. Le Président pense que les supplices et les indemnités ne sont des réparations efficaces qu'autant que des garanties morales les accompagnent, et il croit que le plus sûr moyen de protéger les Missionnaires Français, et en général les Etrangers, c'est que le Gouvernement Chinois leur donne, par ses édits, des marques publiques de l'estime à laquelle ont droit des hommes honnêtes qui font le bien et qui respectent les lois. De la sorte s'évanouiront promptement les préjugés populaires et les accusations malveillantes. Car nous savons que le peuple Chinois est docile et écoute avec soumission la voix de ses magistrats.

Le Président de la République Français veut aussi que les agents de son Gouvernement en Chine s'appliquent par une cordiale entente avec les Autorités Chinoises à prévenir et à dénouer pacifiquement toutes les complications qui pourraient survenir. Il désire que vous ne doutiez pas de l'esprit d'équité qui l'anime, aussi bien que de ses intentions amicales.

Le séjour prolongé de l'Ambassadeur Tchong en France aura eu pour effet de le convaincre pleinement de nos dispositions, et il sera en mesure de vous en porter l'assurance. Nous espérons que sa mission, à ce point de vue, produira les meilleurs résultats, et nous aimons à espérer qu'elle sera le prélude de rapports plus intimes entre nous, auxquels contribueraient puissamment l'établissement d'une Légation Chinoise permanente en France, et l'envoi d'un certain nombre de jeunes Chinois qui viendraient étudier chez nous notre langue, nos arts et notre industrie.

Du reste, au moment où votre Ambassadeur va nous quitter, je me plais à dire à Votre Altesse que nous avons pleinement apprécié ses qualités, son entente des affaires, la modération de son esprit et sa parfaite courtoisie. Nous souhaitons que tous ceux qui lui succèderont lui ressemblent. Je dois aussi rendre un bon témoignage de l'intelligence et du zéle des deux Secrétaires Français que V. A. lui a adjoints, MM. Novion et Imbert. En servant loyalement vos intérêts, comme c'était leur devoir, ils ont par cela même servi ceux de leur pays, qui ne diffèrent pas des votres.

De notre côté, notre Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire, M. de Geofroy, ne tardera pas à se rendre à Pékin, pour y suivre et y terminer avec V.A. les négociations qu'il a commencées ici. Il sera muni également des pleins pouvoirs nécessaires pour procéder à la révision des traités. Enfin, outre ses lettres de créance ordinaires, il sera chargé par le Président de la République d'une lettre spéciale pour l'Empereur, en réponse à celle que l'Ambassadeur Tchong a apportée. Je ne doute pas que V. A. et le Gouvernement Impérial n'aient pleinement á se louer de notre nouvel Envoyé.

Je suis, &c.,

REMUSAT.

M. REMUSAT TO PRINCE KUNG.

(Translation) Versailles, 6th Nov., 1871.

PRINCE,—I have the honor to reply to your Highness' letter, relative to the events at Tientsin, which was handed to my predecessor during March last, by the Ambassador Chung How.

When the news of those horrible occurrences reached France, last year, and people learned that a Consul of the Government, venerable priests, Sisters of Charity solely devoted to good work and worthy of all respect, had been massacred by an ignorant populace without the local authorities having done what they should have done, to stop these horrors, a general indignation prevailed; and it seemed likely that the relations of the two Governments would be seriously disturbed. But the Chargé d'Affaires for France, at Peking, M. de Rochechouart, having announced that the Chinese Government had spontaneously ordered certain measures of reparation, and had decided to send an Ambassador to France, decision was suspended until the arrival of the Agent.

The Ambassador Chunghow arrived, in effect, at the end of the winter, at Bordeaux. From thence he came to Versailles, where he was received by the then Minister for Foreign Affairs, and, conformably with your Highness' letter, he announced officially that the Imperial Government had punished by death twenty of the Tientsin culprits, had exiled an equal number, degraded and banished the Prefect and the sub-Prefect convicted of having been privy to the outbreak, that an indemnity was destined for the families of the victims and for the reconstruction of the destroyed buildings, and that, lastly, he was the bearer of a letter from the Emperor, expressing his regret for the deplorable event, as well as his firm intention to take precautions that similar crimes should not recur in the future.

A Commissioner was delegated to examine these different points and to confer on them with your Ambassador. The choice

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of the Government fell upon Mr. Geofroy, a high officer in the department of Foreign Affairs, who had already been nominated to fulfil the functions of Minister Plenipotentiary in China, in the stead of the Count De Lallemand.

Several conferences were held successively at the Palace of Trianon, and subsequently at Paris.

At the very outset, it appeared to the French Commissioner, just as Count de Rochechouart had already represented to your Highness, that so far as regarded the two magistrates guilty of connivance, the action of justice had not been sufficiently severe; and we invited your Envoy to seek, with him, means for completing what the aggregate of these reparatory measures left to be desired, in stipulating at least for certain guarantees for the future.

The Ambassador having alleged that he was without power in this respect, reference was made to Peking.

In the interval, and while awaiting the instructions of your Highness, your Envoy readily conversed on several questions which had relation to the limited object of his mission. Especially, he examined with Mr. Geofroy the proposed Regulation regarding the exercise of the Christian religion in China. The two negociators also interchanged ideas on the subject of the Imperial Audience.

So far as regards the Eight Articles, it was easy for our Commissioner to show how little foundation had the allegations on which this innovation purported to be based, and the impossibility of carrying it out without manifestly violating the treaties. He did not hesitate, however, to admit the justness of several observations of your Ambassador. Minutes were drawn up of these conferences, read and recognised as exact by both parties.

We learned, subsequently, that the project, triumphantly refuted by the principal Foreign Legations at Peking, as well as by ourselves, had been withdrawn. We cannot but praise the Tsung-li Yamên for the prudence it has shown in this circumstance.

Another point of great importance was approached, as I have said above,—namely that of the Imperial Audience and of the reciprocity which all Governments following international usage show each other in such cases. After having recalled the precedents and the formal reservation made on the occasion of Mr. Burlingame's Mission, the French Commissioner pointed out the necessity for regulating this matter conformably with the rights and the dignity of the two Governments, by establishing their official relations on a footing of perfect equality and of reciprocal consideration. Your Ambassador recognised that this arrangement could not, in effect, be any longer delayed; and that great good would result from it to our mutual relations and to the despatch of business.

In the meantime, M. Lemaire had arrived from China with supplementary instructions from Your Highness for the Ambassador Chung, and he informed us at the same time of the decision come to by the Imperial Government regarding the Cemetery at Tientsin. We discerned in these new measures, which cannot fail to make an impression on the people, a proof of good feeling and of a sincere wish to satisfy us. Moreover, the Ambassador Chung having declared that, immediately on his return to Peking, he would inform the Emperor himself of all pending difficulties, and would respectfully urge their solution, the President of the French Republic, having regard to these assurances, and wishing to give a proof of conciliatory intent, and of the especial consideration which he professes for the Emperor, determined that he would receive in formal audience, from the hands of your Ambassador, the letter of which he was the bearer.

Your Highness will already have had cognisance of the details of this ceremony, and of the words which were pronounced by the President. You will have perceived that the French Government is no less desirous than yourself to see effaced all trace of the misunderstanding occasioned by the deplorable events of Tientsin. The President thinks that the punishments and indemnities awarded, are only efficacious reparation in so far as moral guarantees accompany them; and he believes that the surest way of protecting the French Missionaries and Foreigners generally, is for the Chinese Government to give them by its edicts public marks of the esteem to which honest men who act worthily and respect the law, are entitled. In this way, popular prejudices and wilful accusations will quickly vanish; for we know that the Chinese people is docile, and listens submissively to the voice of its magistrates. The President of the French Republic desires also that the Agents of his Government, in China, endeavour, by a cordial understanding with the Chinese authorities, to prevent and solve pacifically all complications which may arise. He desires that you should not doubt the spirit of justice which guides him, nor his friendly intentions.

The prolonged stay of the Ambassador Chung in France will have had the effect of convincing him fully of our disposition, and he will be in a position to convey to you this assurance. We hope that his mission, from this point of view, will produce the best results, and we are glad to hope that it will be the prelude to more intimate relations between us—an end, to which the establishment of a permanent Chinese Legation in France, and the despatch of a certain number of young Chinese who should study here our language our arts and our industry, would powerfully contribute.

To conclude, at the moment when your Ambassador is about to quit us, I have pleasure in saying to your Highness that we have fully appreciated his qualities, his comprehension of affairs, the moderation of his mind, and his perfect courtesy. We hope that all who may succeed him will resemble him. I must also bear witness to the intelligence and zeal of the two French Secretaries—Messrs. Novion and Imbert—whom your Highness attached to him. In loyally serving your interests, as was their duty, they served at the same time the interests of their own country which do not differ from your own.

On our part, our Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, M. de Geofroy, will soon go to Peking, to pursue and to conclude there, with your Highness, the negociations which he has commenced here. He will also be provided with the full powers necessary to proceed to a revision of the treaties. Finally, besides his ordinary credentials, he will be intrusted by the President of the Republic with a special letter, to the Emperor, in reply to that which the Ambassador Chunghow brought hither. I do not doubt that your Highness and the Imperial Government will have full reason to congratulate themselves upon our new Envoy.

I am, &c.,

Remusat.

Public Meetings.

SHANGHAI AND HONGKEW WHARF CO.

The first annual meeting of the Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Co. was held on the 23rd instant. Present—Messrs. C. J. King (in the chair), F. Porter, E. H. Lavers, F. D. Barnes, J. I. Miller, directors; W. D. Harrison, R. Fergusson, F. H. Parker, J. G. Marshall, F. King, A. Paterson, D. McLean, A. Michie, A. Tornoe, M. Hawtrey, R. Mackenzie, P. Maclean, P. G. Hubbe, J. P. Bisset, A. J. Provand, H. D. Jamieson, E. Maccall and M. Wolff.

The Chairman having read the minutes of last meeting, proposed, seconded by Mr. Lavers—

That the Minutes of the Meeting of 8th January be confirmed.

The Chairman said the report had been sent to all the shareholders, it was therefore unnecessary to read it at present, and he would propose—

That the Accounts and Report of the Directors be accepted and passed.

Mr. Porter seconded, and the resolution was passed unanimously.

REPORT.

For the 9 months ending 31st Dec., 1871.

The Directors in submitting the accounts of the Company from the time of its reorganisation, on the 1st April, 1871, to the end of the year, are glad to be able to congratulate the Shareholders on the satisfactory results of the Company's business which these documents exhibit.

The paid-up Capital is represented by the

Cost of Property		Tls. 117,000.0.0
New Buildings, etc		„ 6,520.4.1
Cash in Bank	Tls. 12,091.9.9	
Outstanding Claims	„ 4,943.5.1	
	Tls. 17,035.5.0	
Less sum for division	„ 10,555.9.1	
		„ 6,479.5.9
		Tls. 130,000.0.0

The net profits for the 9 months amount to Tls. 18,355.9.1, out of which the sum of Tls. 7,800.0.0 was paid as dividend for the 6 months ending 30th September, being at the rate of 6 per cent. Of the balance, Tls. 3,900.0. have now to be appropriated to the payment of a dividend at the rate of 3 per cent, making for the 9 months, 9 per cent, or at the rate of 12 per cent per annum; and the sum of Tls. 3,671.1.8, being 20 per cent on the net profits, is shewn to be due to the contributors' of business in proportion to the amounts of such contributions. There remain to be paid out of the net profits Tls. 200 for Auditors fees; and then there will be a surplus left for the disposal of the meeting, of Tls. 2,784.7.3.

The Working Account calls for little remark, and the Directors would only observe that as the earnings are based on a very low scale of charge for the Wharfage of ships, an important branch of the Company's revenue, it may be confidently anticipated that the profits for the future will not fall below those now reported. A considerable outlay for law expenses, incidental to the organisation of the Company, which appears in the account, is not likely to occur again, and on the whole there seems good reason to hope that the present satisfactory rate of net-earnings, which is 19 per cent per annum, will be fully maintained.

The Directors now retire, but are eligible for re-election.

WORKING ACCOUNT.

General Expenses—	
Coolie Hire, Wages, etc	16,062.02
Insurance on Buildings, House and Land Taxes, Advertg., Stationery, etc	1,484.21
Interest on Deposits account Mortgage	1,042.70
Legal Expenses	1,592.50
Repairs to Property	615.16
Payments for Fire Insurance	3,175.76
Agents Commission 5 per cent	2,227.79
Balance, being Net Profit	18,355.91
	Taels 44,556.05

Warehouse Rent, Wharfage, etc.—	
Gross earnings for 9 months to 31st December 1871	39,667.28
Fire Insurance do. do.	3,879.47
Interest on Loans on goods at Wharf..do. do.	1,009.30
	Taels 44,556.05

LIABILITIES.

To paid up Capital 1,300 Shares	130,000.00
„ Net Profit, Balance of Working Account	18,355.91
	Taels 148,355.91

ASSETS.

By Cost of Property	117,000.00
„ New Godown, etc	6,520.41
„ 6 months Dividend to 30th September at 6 per cent	7,800.00
„ Outstanding claims for Godown Rent and Fire Insurance	4,943.51
„ Cash in Hongkong and Shanghai Bank	12,091.99
	Taels 148,355.91

Mr. W. D. Harrison proposed, seconded by Mr. Fergusson—

That the sum of Tls. 1,000 be voted for the remuneration of the retiring Directors, in re-

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cognition of their services in the re-constitution of the Company and the amalgamation with Olyphant's Wharf; 500 Taels of this sum being carried over to the accounts of 1872, and 500 Taels being paid out of the present balances.

Passed unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN said they now came to deal with the surplus fund of Tls. 2784.73, which remained, and in regard to this he had much pleasure in making the following proposition, in the form of a resolution—

That the surplus of Tls. 2,784.73, as shewn by the Accounts of the Company, be disposed of as follows:—

Remuneration to Directors in terms of Resolution 3 .....Tls.	500.00
Bonus of Tls. 1.50 per share to holders of Scrip on 31st Dec. (1,300 shares) .. .. ,,	1,950.00
Carried forward to the Working Account of 1872, in protection of the uncollected amounts ... ,,	334.73
Tls.	2,784.73

He might say, with reference to his promise to Mr. Higson, recorded in the minutes of last meeting, that they should not carry forward any reserve, they had only this small amount of Tls. 334 to carry forward, and they did so as a protection against loss on outstanding accounts. The sum was so small that it could make but a fractional addition to the bonus returned to contributors of business, and could hardly be dealt with otherwise than as proposed. At the same time, the outstanding accounts required very little protection, for of Tls. 4,943.51 out on 30th December, they had on the 20th February collected Tls. 3,143.07.

Mr. BARNES seconded the resolution, which was passed unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN said the only business now before them was the question of Fire Insurance, which was at present undertaken by the Wharf. The Directors wished very much to take the opinion of the meeting upon it, and he might mention that the Directors themselves were of opinion it was not desirable to continue the system, except as a matter of convenience for the public. The Company's profits on the Insurance account were too small to make it of any consideration. At the same time it increased their responsibilities, and in the event of a fire these responsibilities might be very great. The Directors wished therefore to discontinue the present practice, leaving the public to provide their own insurance. Of course if it was the opinion of the meeting that the Company should discontinue insurance business, they must leave the settlement of current policies to be managed by the Directors as best they could. It might lead to the loss of some hundred taels on the surrender of large current policies. However, the Fire Insurance Companies were very liberal, and he had no doubt they would treat them liberally if they had to return policies. He hoped to hear the opinion of some of the shareholders on the matter.

Mr. HARRISON agreed with the proposition that the fire insurance should be done away with. It was a responsibility which it was not for the Company to assume.

The CHAIRMAN said unfortunately there was nothing they could very well suggest to supply its place. It seemed to the Directors it must be given up altogether.

Mr. HARRISON said the public must just attend to their own insurances, and at the expiration of the present policies the Company should cease to take out fresh ones.

The CHAIRMAN said they regretted having to come to this conclusion, as hitherto the system had been a great convenience to the public. Monthly insurances could not be procured from the Insurances Offices for less than ¼ per cent, whereas the Company, having policies for a year, could take the short risks at 1/6th per cent, making a small profit and giving the public the advantage of protecting themselves at a cheaper rate.

Mr. HARRISON said they were assisting the public at what one day or other might be a great loss to themselves.

Mr. PARKER asked whether an arrangement could not be made with some local Insurance Offices to underwrite one half.

The CHAIRMAN said they had thought of that, and something might be done; but they were not then quite prepared to say what the local Offices would do.

Mr. PARKER—It would accommodate all storers at the Wharf, and maintain the convenience to the public.

Mr. PORTER did not imagine the local Offices would do it at 1/6th per cent, the rate charged by the Company. They might accommodate the public so far, however, as to grant them risk notes through the Agents of the Wharf instead of requiring application at the Insurance Office. The Agents would then have to make arrangements to declare a risk at once to the different Offices. It might be done in the way the S. S. N. Co. at present managed their Insurance. That Company had arrangements with the local Offices for open policies for a certain amount, and declared each evening how much they had incurred under these. He was not prepared to say that the local Offices would do this for the Wharf Company, but they had done it for the S. S. N. Co., and he did not see why they should not do it for the other. The Company would gain nothing, it would be merely for the convenience of the public.

Mr. LAVERS said it appeared to him that if the Wharf Company gave up the present system of insurance the public would take steps to secure themselves. If any one took a policy of say Tls. 20,000 for a month, he could secure the safety of several shipments under it, as several might be turned over during the month, and he could even transfer the policy from one godown to another, and also the goods insured under it.

Mr. BARNES said Mr. Lavers' argument would hold good if goods remained only a short time at the Wharf, but it was the Company's interest to get goods to remain there as long as possible. If the public viewed it as a favour to get short insurances at one-sixth per cent., and the local Offices would grant policies to be given out in the same way, the plan might be worth considering.

Mr. P. MACLEAN remarked that the granting of insurances would entail on the Company an extra expense for their staff. At present they were gaining a slight profit by it; in the new way proposed they would gain none.

Mr. LAVERS said as the plan brought in so little money, only Tls. 500 or 600 in nine months, and it was really not the business of the Company to grant risks, it had better cease.

Mr. P. MACLEAN thought the profit very small for the risk incurred, and he did not see that a public Company should do insurance for such a small return.

Mr. MILLER said there was another point to be taken into consideration. If a fire occurred, there would be great difficulty in determining the goods insured under an open policy, and it might involve much trouble and endless lawsuits—all for a profit of Tls. 500 in 9 months. It was scarcely worth while for the Company to run the risk. If the risk was taken, they must remember also that the Deed of Settlement would require alteration.

The CHAIRMAN thought the opinion seemed very general and unanimous, that the responsibility had better not be undertaken longer, and he should therefore propose—

That the present system of insuring merchandise against the risk of Fire shall, from 2 th inst., be discontinued by the Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Co. No new risk to be taken in the meantime, and risks already accepted not to be renewed; and outstanding Policies of Fire Insurance to be dealt with by the Directors as they find advisable for the interests of the Company.

Mr. DAVID MACLEAN seconded, and the resolution was passed unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN said they had now to elect new Directors. All retired; but Mr. Lavers, Mr. Porter, and himself were not prepared to serve again. There was a list of eight willing to serve, however, from which five had to be selected.

The ballot having been taken, Messrs. Michie, Miller, Harrison, Nissen, and Barnes were found to be elected.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

THE ROWING CLUB.

A meeting of members was held on the 26th inst. Present: Messrs. Bird (Chairman), Batt, Little, Dyce, Lewis, Provand, Wisner, Harvie, Fergusson, Clarke, Stokes, Barton, Lepper, Pearson, Maitland, Ashley, D. Brand, Hamilton, &c.

The minutes of the last annual meeting were read and confirmed.

The Secretary read the Report and accounts for the year 1871, as follow:—

REPORT.

The Committee have to congratulate the members upon another successful season, the accounts as now presented showing—after additions to the stock of boats, the enlargement and thorough repair of the lower boat-house at a cost of Taels 325, and the payment of Tls. 280, 4 years interest to Jan. 1873 due to the Recreation Fund, a balance of Tls. 235.03 to the credit.

Members.—Twenty-two new members have joined, making a total of 79 subscribing members for the past season.

Boats.—Two new pair-oars have been built. and one single sculling boat added to stock, which now consists of:—

Eight Oars—2 English	2 Shanghai.			
Four Oars —2 ,,	4 ,,		5	Canton worn out
Pair Oars	2 ,,			
Single Sculls 3 ,,			4	Canton
Double ,, 1			5	,,
China Canoe	1 ,,			

Oars.—Orders have been sent to England for 2 sets each for the English four-oars. 1 set each for the English eights and 12 pairs sculls. The supply for the other boats is considered ample.

Boathouses.—The lower one has been put into thorough repair, the dressing-room removed to the East side and much enlarged, and the pontoon caulked and repaired. The removal of the upper boat-house has not been proceeded with owing to the want of sufficient funds and the difficulty of getting any reasonable estimate for the purpose. The widening and deepening of the creek, now in execution by the Chinese authorities may, it is hoped, solve the difficulty by doing away with the necessity for removal. The former amount Tls. 291.06 still stands to credit of the Removal Fund and is not included in the general account.

The Regatta account showed a deficiency of Tls. 154.16, which has been passed to the general account.

Season 1871-72.

Dr.	Taels.
To Wages	560.19
,, Expenses	108.98
,, Repairs to boats	61.63
,, Purchase 2 pair-oars and 1 sculling boat	188.60
,, Repairs to lower boat-house	325.00
,, Deficiency on Regatta account	154.16
,, Int. to Jan. 73, paid Recreation Fund	280.00
,, Balance in hand	235.03
	1,913.59

Cr.	
By Balance January 1, 1871	393.57
,, Rent on boats 1870	68.00
,, Rent on boats 1871	64.00
,, Subscriptions 78 members *a* 15	1,170.00
,, Entrance fees 20 members *a* 10	200.00
,, Int. allowed by Bank on current account	18.02
	1,913.59
Jan. 1, 1872, By Balance	235.03

BOAT-HOUSE REMOVAL FUND.

By Balance from Jan. 1, 1871	291.06

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AUTUMN REGATTA 1871, IN ACCOUNT WITH HONY. TREASURER, S. R. C.

Dr.

To Sundry expenses	137.68	
„ Prizes	418.71	556.39

Cr.

By Entrance fees $263 *a* Tls. 77	202.51	
„ Subscriptions to prizes	199.72	
„ Balance passed to general account	154.16	556.39

Shanghai, Feb. 23rd, 1872.

Mr. Little proposed and Mr. B. A. Clarke seconded—

That the Report and Accounts as read be adopted.—Carried.

A ballot was then taken for a Committee for the ensuing year. The following gentlemen were elected:—Messrs. Bird, Clarke, Little, Lindsley and Schuffenhauer.

Mr. Morris proposed and Mr. Lewis seconded—

That Mr. R. W. Little be elected Captain of the Club.—Carried unanimously.

The Chairman then said the Committee had been considering the wording of the Rules of the Club; and desired to propose the insertion of a new rule after Rule V, and the addition of two new rules to the Regulations for Regattas. First, it was proposed to insert after Rule 5 a Clause as follows:—

That any gentlemen visiting Shanghai may, upon being duly proposed and seconded, be, at the discretion of the Committee, admitted to all the privileges of membership, except those of voting, without the payment of any fee or subscription.

The object was, to allow gentlemen visiting Shanghai to pull, during their stay, without paying a fee for the privilege.

Mr. Brand asked whether it were intended to permit visitors also to pull in regattas?

The Chairman imagined not—the Committee would "exercise their discretion" to the contrary. But it would be easy to place the point beyond doubt by inserting the words "and rowing in regattas" after "voting."

The rule as amended was then proposed by Mr. Maitland, seconded by Mr. Wisner, and carried unanimously.

The Chairman said it was also proposed to add to the rules of racing at regattas, a rule No. XVII.

After crews are once chosen, no change shall be permitted without the consent in writing of all the Strokes of the competing crews.

Mr. Lewis proposed as an amendment that "no change should be permitted without the consent of the Committee." If there were 4 or 5 Strokes they would never all agree.

Mr. Wisner said, to make the rule effective, a time ought to be fixed beyond which notice of change should not be admitted. As the rule stood, crews might be changed up to half an hour before starting.

Mr. Lewis' amendment, seconded by Mr. Brand, was put to the meeting and lost.

The original rule was then put and carried, against 5 dissentients.

The Chairman said it was proposed to add one more rule, No. XVIII.

That none but members shall act as coxswain in any regatta, except by consent in writing of all the Strokes of the competing crews.

Mr. Lewis proposed a similar amendment—that the decision should be left to the Committee; but it fell for want of a seconder.

Mr. Brand proposed, and Mr. Stokes seconded the omission of the last words—"except with the consent in writing of the Strokes." Regattas were supposed to be trials of strength and skill among members of the Club itself.

This amendment was lost, and the original rule was put and carried. This concluded the business, and the meeting separated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

THE SHANGHAI RACE CLUB.

The annual meeting of the Shanghai Race Club was held on the 27th. Present: Messrs. C. J. King (in the chair), Ringer, F. King, Bayne, Dunn, Daly, Preston, R. Church, H. Morriss, Cance, Coutts, Waller, Meller, Barnes Dallas, Jamieson, Chambers, Ilbert, Gusset, Lent, Head, Wolff, Limby, Passmore, Howie, Low, Zimmern, Walker, Short, Rainbow, J. Kidner, Smart, Gore-Booth, Rasch.

The minutes of last meeting having been read, it was proposed by Mr. Dunn, and seconded by Mr. Head, that they be confirmed.—Passed.

The Chairman next drew the attention of the meeting to the statement of receipts and expenditure for 1871. There was little to be said in reference to it; but on the whole they must feel agreeably surprised to find that there was a balance of Tls 3,407.49, to which had to be added the dependency of Tls. 60 for rent of stables, which had since been collected, making the whole amount Tls. 3,467.49. He would be glad to explain anything in the accounts on which members might desire information. He might notice the greatly reduced expenditure on the Grand Stand and stable repairs, Tls. 289.19 against Tls. 741.65 in 1870, while the general expenses were also less—Tls. 442.68 against Tls. 606.17. The subscriptions were rather larger.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR 1871.

Dr.

	Taels.
To Advertising	81.47
„ Secretary's Salary to 31st January	360.00
„ Wages—Coolies at the Race Course, Shroff, European Gateman, etc.	333.40
„ Prizes—paid out of Fund	5,050.98
„ „ —presented (in money)	792.85
„ Rent of Race Course for 1871	700.00
„ Government Ground Rent for 1871	94.21
„ Interest at 10 per cent. on Tls. 4,500 to 19th Feb. 1871, being balance of Mr. Keswick's Loan	450.00
„ Refunded on account of ditto	1,000.00
„ Repairs and Painting to Stand, Stables, etc.	289.19
„ Expenses at Spring and Autumn Meeting, Police, Tiffin, etc., etc.	442.68
„ Printing and Stationery	126.76
„ Postages and Petties	17.60
„ Balance	3,407.49
Sh. Tls	13,646.49

Cr.

	Taels.
By Balance	2,637.44
„ 150 Subscribers at Tls. 15	2,250.00
„ 24 Entrance Fees at Tls. 5	120.00
„ Hon. Members' Subscriptions	80.00
„ Rent of Stables	305.00
„ Entries at Spring Meeting	2,370.00
„ Subscriptions to Champion Stakes	110.00
„ Tickets sold at Spring Meeting	388.28
„ Dividend on Eight Race Course Shares at Tls. 27	216.00
„ Entries at Autumn Meeting	3,815.00
„ Subscriptions to Champion Stakes	150.00
„ Tickets sold at Autumn Meeting	375.55
„ Prizes Presented (exclusive of Cups)	792.85
„ Interest on Balance at Hongkong and Shanghai Bank to 30th June, 1871	19.27
„ do. do. do. do. to 31st December, 1871	17.24
Sh. Tls	13,646.63

February 16, 1872.

By Balance ..... Sh. Tls. 3,047.49

DEPENDENCY.

By Rent of Stables, not yet collected ..... Tls. 60.00

Mr. Low asked how the entries compared with those of the previous years.

The Chairman said they were Tls. 6,185 for 1871 against Tls. 5,560 for 1870, being about Tls. 500 more. The sweepstakes however were larger than in the previous year.

Mr. Daly begged to propose—

That the statement of accounts as printed be approved and passed.

Mr. Church seconded, and the resolution was passed unanimously.

The Chairman said they now had to deal with the balance at credit of the Club. There was interest due on Mr. Keswick's loan of some Tls. 350, and he held a resolution in his hand, which he hoped would meet their approval, for a further reduction of that loan. At last meeting the expediency of reducing the loan was very much debated, and it was thought best to continue paying it off. He would propose—

That the sum of Tls. 1,000, together with interest due, be paid in liquidation of Mr. Keswick's loan.

If this were passed, the Club would owe Mr. Keswick Tls. 2,500, and it would still have Tls. 2,117 of a balance at the beginning of the year.

Mr. Coutts seconded, and the resolution was passed.

Mr. Dunn said he noticed by the local papers that the interior of the Race Course had been let to Messrs. Sewjee and Pallant. Now it was a well known thing that the entrance opposite the Horse Bazaar was annually much injured by ponies going in, but as they were race ponies this could not very well be objected to. But Sewjee's cows did not contribute in any way to the Race Club, and he would put it whether the right to enter was not restricted entirely to those going for purposes of Recreation, either to the cricket or base ball grounds or for riding or walking. Cows were not there for recreation, and it was they which cut up the road. If cows were to be continually going in, he thought the Club were entitled to some compensation. The place was for recreative and not for agricultural purposes.

The Chairman believed the Race Club was under an obligation, so far as the Cricket Club was concerned, to keep the gate open after 5 o'clock in the afternoon, but on the other hand they might be entitled to some rent for the right of road for cattle. At the same time it might not be a very judicious move, for the Race Club had great privileges over the inner course, in the training of ponies and running steeplechases, which were carried on without any right to the ground having been granted. It might be as well to give and take.

Mr. Dunn was only asking for information. He had been ignorant that the Race Club had no control over the inner ground.

Mr. Low understood they had the privilege of using the inner ground for ponies.

The Chairman said the whole of the inner ground belonged to the Recreation Fund, whatever that might be. There was an old dispute about it, and on making enquiries he had found that the rights of riders, pedestrians and sportsmen were respected, and that the only reservation was against people turning ponies or cattle in.

Mr. Low thought they had better expend some of the balance in their hands on the inner course, so as to make it a good place for training on.

Mr. Smart said he had remarked that, when he saw what was done in Hongkong.

Mr. Low said it was dangerous to ride on; the drains were falling through, and in one place, not far from the Grand Stand, there was a grave that projected. He thought it would be a very good use to put some of their funds to.

Mr. Head begged to second Mr Low's motion, that some of the funds be expended on improving the inner course. He did not know what arrangement they might be able to make with the Recreation Fund—that seemed to be an irresponsible affair, and to be managed by people difficult to deal with. The Club would have Tls 2,500 to credit, after paying an instalment of Mr. Keswick's loan; and he thought it would be a very good thing to spend Tls. 500 or so in widening and generally improving the inner Course. When walking on it a few days since, he had found a spot on which there was only two paces wide for ponies to gallop through; a little further on there were six paces, and again seven, eight and nine. How was it possible to use that for a training ground? To make the Club a proper racing Society, they must have a second course; they wanted it as a man required a second suit of clothes. They had not a proper training

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ground now, and it was the first thing they should try for.

Mr. Low put his suggestion in the form of a resolution as follows :—

That, with the permission of the Recreation Fund, a portion of the fund of the Race Club be devoted to the improvement of the inner Riding Course.

In putting this resolution forward, he did not wish to claim for the Race Club any exclusive right to use the ground.

The resolution was put, and passed with one dissentient.

Stewards were then ballotted for, and Messrs. C. J. King, Barnes Dallas, G. Coutts, W. Kaye, F. Nissen, J. M. Ringer and F. D. Hitch, elected.

Mr. CHURCH asked, with regard to the measuring of ponies, supposing a man bought a griffin and made some mistake in measuring it before entering, was it reasonable that, when the pony was measured by the Stewards and they found it to be over height, they should retain the entrance fees. It had been done in his own case at last meeting, with "Calcraft." He proposed and Mr. Low seconded—

That for ponies not passed by the Stewards as under height, the entrance fees be returned to the member entering.

Mr. KIDNER said, some two or three meetings ago, a resolution had been passed making a subscription for honorary members of Tls. 10—men who did not enter ponies nor ride. He would like to ask what the privileges of these members were.

The CHAIRMAN said, honorary members were admitted at both meetings to the Grand Stand, and to the ground for the general purpose of recreation.

Mr. KIDNER said the reason he asked the question was, because he was told he had no right to enter the Grand Stand to see the training on a morning.

The CHAIRMAN understood that honorary members' privileges extended to entering the Grand Stand at any time. But he thought he had better read the resolution adopted on the 21st February 1870.

"Inasmuch as non-members as well as members of the Club make constant use of the Race Course enclosure, it is proposed that the Clerk of the Course should post a notice that only subscribers can be admitted ; should any non-members wish to make use of the course for walking, they can do so by paying an Annual subscription of Tls. 5 which would not admit them to the Grand Stand during race meetings, or paying Tls. 10, which would admit them as honorary members."

Mr. CHURCH asked if that allowed the use of the Stand at training time.

The CHAIRMAN confessed that he did not see that a man should be admitted into the grounds at 4 in the afternoon, and be excluded at 8 in the morning.

Mr. CHAMBERS—Can honorary members attend a members' meeting?

The CHAIRMAN did not know that they could.

Mr. KIDNER said he had come there, because he did not clearly understand what the privileges of an honorary member were. He had been at the meeting at which the resolution just read was passed, and he thought honorary members had all the privileges of members, except riding and entering ponies.

The CHAIRMAN said honorary members had not the privilege of voting. He now recalled the attention of the meeting to Mr. Church's motion.

The motion was put and passed.

Mr. LOW would like to propose that, instead of the handicap being arranged by the Stewards, who had not so good an opportunity of judging of the performance of ponies as owners, a committee of owners be appointed by the Club to make it up. It was impossible for the stewards to watch the ponies so well as owners could, and all admitted that there were various mistakes in the last handicap and the one before. Owners were more likely to arrive at a correct estimate of the proper weights to put upon ponies.

The CHAIRMAN asked how many of a Committee Mr. Low would have.

Mr. LOW thought five owners acting with the Stewards. He would move—

That a Committee of five owners of ponies be selected by the Stewards to act in conjunction with them in arranging Handicaps.

Mr. DUNN said there had always been some talk about the handicaps ; it was a very difficult thing to arrange, some one must be more heavily weighted than another. But considering the handicaps they had had, and how closely they had been ridden, he could not see why they should not continue to leave it to the Stewards to decide.

Mr. CHURCH entirely disagreed with Mr. Dunn. In the way the handicap was made up at present, the winner could always be picked out. The Stewards could not see how the ponies were working, and if they did, could not always tell ; some people might be holding their ponies. Owners were more alive to what the ponies were worth, and could therefore make a better handicap. He begged to second Mr. Low's motion.

Mr. DUNN considered the Stewards had, throughout, made splendid handicaps.

Mr. LOW thought it would save the Stewards a great deal of trouble, and afford them material assistance if owners were associated with them. The Stewards were not present regularly at morning training, to see what the ponies were doing.

Mr. ZIMMERN thought it would be most undesirable to have owners of ponies have much say in handicapping, and was strongly of opinion it should be left to the Stewards.

The CHAIRMAN, before putting the resolution, took the opportunity of making a few remarks on the matter. For his own part, if there were any person whom they would find more fitted to make the handicap, or even a select committee of three who would have the confidence of the Club more than the Stewards, he would be in favour of the motion. But he thought no practical good would follow from making the number fixing the handicap larger, and that it would be a mistake to introduce an element of owners. The Stewards had the advantage, usually, of not being men who were personally interested in the animals.

Mr. MELLER thought, if the Club elected certain gentlemen to do certain things in connection with the race meeting, and had not sufficient confidence in them as handicappers, they had better not elect them. (Hear hear). He believed the handicaps had been thoroughly good, though they certainly had not told in his favour.

The CHAIRMAN then put the resolution to the meeting, when it was lost by a large majority.

Mr. DUNN asked, returning to the question of the privileges of honorary members, whether they really had the right to vote at meetings, and the right to appear at the Grand Stand on training mornings, or simply that of attending race meetings. He thought they should only have tickets to the race meetings, and the use of the Course when it was not engaged for racing purposes. It would make a great difference to their income, if honorary members had all the privileges of members with the exception simply of entering ponies. To make the thing quite clear he would move—

That it be understood, an honorary member, viz. a member paying Tls. 10 per annum, has only the privilege of entering the Grand Stand on Race days and walking on the Course subject to the rules of the Club.

An honorary member of Tls. 5 per annum has only the privilege of walking on the Course, also subject to the Bye-laws of the Race Club.

Mr. CHAMBERS seconded.

The CHAIRMAN thought, if that was the view of the meeting, it was a very right thing that they should take this opportunity of declaring it ; so that there should be no uncertainty as to what honorary members' privileges were. The question was of a little more importance than might at once appear, for if people were to be admitted to the Grand Stand the year round, for Tls. 10, there would be no inducement to any one, unless an owner of ponies, to become a regular member.

The resolution was then passed *nem. con.*

Mr. HEAD trusted no time would be lost in proceeding with the improvements on the inner course. With regard to the Race programmes ; these were always excellent, and gave good racing. But they had one fault, that the steeplechases and hurdle races always came off in the dark ; and it was a most dangerous thing to ride one in such circumstances. He thought it should be arranged that these races would come off in the middle of the day, or have a fourth day for this class of racing.

A member remarked that it was necessary these races should come off last, as the jockeys had to go and change their clothes after them.

Mr. Head—But there are lots of other jockeys. (Laughter.)

The CHAIRMAN said this difficulty had occurred to the Stewards, but it was of more importance in the autumn than in the spring, there being longer light at the latter meeting. It seemed to them, it would be well to have the races a little earlier in the day rather than to alter their rotation ; for people did get very wet at the Steeplechase, and the best jockeys always went in for it.

After a few remarks,

The CHAIRMAN said he hoped the meeting would be satisfied with the assurance of the Stewards, that every facility would be given for having the races run in daylight; and he would ask members to second their efforts, by being as punctual as possible, and not hindering the start.

The meeting then terminated, with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

SHANGHAI FEMALE SCHOOL SOCIETY.

The third annual meeting of this Society was held on the 26th instant. Present:—G. F. Seward, Esq., U. S. Consul-General, in the chair, Dr. S. Wells Williams, Dr. McCartee, Rev. Canon Butcher, Rev. E. H. Thompson, Messrs. David Reid, R. I. Fearon, &c. &c. Several ladies were also present.

The CHAIRMAN said the meeting was one of the friends and patrons of the Shanghai Female School Society, called by a notice published in the daily papers. The Secretary, Mr. Syle, had requested him to take the chair, and he had just received a letter from him, saying that he regretted his inability to be present on this occasion—the last probably in which Mr. Syle would have the opportunity of taking a part. Indisposition prevented Mr. Syle from leaving his house at present. The first work for the meeting was to read the report of the committee of managers and the accounts of the treasurer.

Mr. FEARON, the hon. treasurer, before proceeding to read the report, expressed his regret that Mr. Syle was prevented from attending, as he could have given them much interesting information regarding the work of the Society which they would not receive in any other way.

REPORT.

If continued success is to be considered as good ground for satisfaction, then the friends and supporters of our Society may be congratulated on the general result of their efforts during the year 1871.

The Managers, in presenting their Third Annual Report, will briefly state what has been accomplished thus far.

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Of the pupils two have been married, (which fact goes to answer the question what is to become of your scholars), one has been returned to her family, on account of invincible dullness, and twenty-seven remain in the school at the present time. Thus the full number of thirty, which was at first proposed, has been attained, and more might have been received had we been willing to relax the wholesome rule that the benefits of this school are to be extended only to those who have the good sense to leave their feet unbound.

Our income has sufficed for our wants, as will be seen from the Treasurer's Report, submitted herewith, and we have a balance of $127.36 in hand, with which to begin the year 1872.

The progress of the pupils has been quite satisfactory, and in some respects very interesting; but as this subject will probably be considered in a separate Report, we offer no further remarks, except to say that by an oversight (which we regret) the subject of Arithmetic has not received due attention for the past twelve months.

Those in immediate charge of the school have been cheered by the exhibition of a kindly personal interest on the part of many of our friends, especially at Christmas-time. It would be invidious to mention the names of those who have helped to make the play-hours happy and the holiday-time enjoyable; but we refer to the matter thus generally as an expression of our thanks, and as a reminder to all our friends that personal sympathy doubles every benefaction.

And now we come to speak of losses—not, indeed, among the children, for death has not thinned their number—but among our friends and supporters. Two of our Lady-visitors—Mrs. Probst and Mrs. Markham—have left us, under very afflictive circumstances; and we follow them with our warmest sympathies. But our most signal bereavement has been in the death of the late President of our Society, Mrs. Bridgman. It would be incompatible with the character of such a Report as this to attempt the expression of what might well be said in reference to the Life and Labors of so devoted a friend to the cause of female education—the cause to which she gave the active efforts of a whole lifetime, and to which she leaves a legacy which will identify her memory with the welfare of the Mothers and Daughters of China.

Mrs. Bridgman, by her Will, bequeaths to our Society the whole of the property, valued at about $8,000, where our school is already established; the only condition attached to the bequest being that the Society shall maintain at least twenty-five pupils. Feeling no doubt but that the condition will be amply complied with, your Committee have accepted the Trust, and look with confidence to all friends of *good* Education in our Community to sustain them in what they have undertaken. We say *good* education, because all children are educated in some way on other: the alternative is not between some or none, but between education in evil and error, or education in goodness and truth.

One other change remains to be noted. The present Chaplain and Superintendent is about to retire from the position which he has occupied since our Society commenced in August 1868, but the Managers are happy to state that they have secured the valuable superintendence of the Rev. E. H. Thomson, under whose charge they feel confident the School will flourish even more than heretofore.

There are several questions which will call for practical settlement during the coming year; such as, shall our pupils be taught in the Literary style of their own language; if so, what books shall be used? Should the history of their own Town, County, and Province be a subject of study? And what regard should be had to their training as future Teachers, Translators of books, or Work-women? The Managers have bestowed much consideration on these points, and allude to them now for the purpose of drawing the attention of their successors in office to what they feel to be matter of some solicitude—namely, the probable future of those whom our Society has assumed the responsibility of educating on Christian principles.

On behalf of the Committee of Managers.

Edwd. W. Syle,

Hon. Secretary.

General Statement of Receipts and Expenditure 1871.

Receipts.

1870.		
31st Dec. Balance cash in hand.....		$315.98
1871.		
Subscriptions collected from Foreigners	$693.26	
From Chinese	148 00	841.26
Proceeds of work done by Scholars		51.76
		$ 1,209.00

Expenditure.

1871.	
Paid for sundry expenses as per Rev. E. W. Syle's account	$1,081.64
Dec. 31st Balance cash in hands of Rev. E. W. Syle	127.36
	$1,209.00

The Chairman observed that no resolution had been offered for the adoption of the Report at the previous meeting, so that it was now in order to propose any other resolution.

Dr. Williams read the following resolution, which had been put into his hands, and which he had great pleasure in proposing—

That we desire to record our affectionate appreciation of the single-minded devotion to the elevation of her own sex which marked the character and labors of the late President of our Society, Mrs. Bridgman; and that we pledge ourselves to carry on the good work to the prosperity of which she so largely contributed.

The resolution, he said, had two parts to it, and one was a good sequence to the other. If he should, holding that resolution in his hand, attempt to express all the regard that he had for the revered woman who was the subject of it, he might detain them longer than was desirable. For her whole life, Mrs. Bridgman was engaged in teaching. In the United States she taught a school for over 20 years, and in China for 26 years, making nearly half a century of her life; and as she was 66 years of age when she died, she must have begun to teach when she was 20. He had heard read letters written by her former pupils in America, which showed the grateful recollection of the benefits they had enjoyed by her teaching. One very long letter Mrs. Bridgman received from a lady in Halifax, in which the care and the Christian faithfulness she had shown to this woman when a girl in school, was recalled, and the blessing of God resting on that instruction enabled its recipient to maintain herself amid great temptation and trouble. This meeting, however, was more connected with Mrs. Bridgman's labours in China. As soon as she arrived in this country, she began to take two or three girls to teach. When her husband came up here in connection with the translation of the Scriptures, Mrs. Bridgman brought with her two girls from Canton. One of these he believed was dead; the other married and maintained a Christian walk, and as a surety that Mrs. Bridgman's labours were not lost when she was gone, encouraged others to follow her wish—her whole desire when in China, that of training up girls in the nurture and the admonition of the Lord. He had seen a great deal of Mrs. Bridgman's work in Peking, and assisted in it; and the first children she got there were picked up off the streets. Near the house where she lived there was a woman whose small feet showed that at some time she had been in better circumstances than she then was. She had these two girls; and Mrs. Bridgman, not waiting longer for any better work to begin with, took them on. In doing so, however, she took up a cross more trying than she had imagined, for the mother could never be satisfied with anything that was done for the girls or for herself—not that she was poor, but she never could have enough—till Mrs. Bridgman was almost compelled to turn the girls away. But she retained them, and this beginning became the nucleus of the school which is still going on. It must be encouragement to know that God in his providence always raised up some one to carry on a good work. The school in Peking was now in charge of Miss Porter, and was one of the most successful institutions of its kind. They all knew Mrs. Bridgman's character; and her works followed her. Her character was of the most single-minded, and was displayed in efforts to train the young native girls to grow up better fitted to discharge the duties of life than they would have become in any other way. And if she had set them so good an example, it certainly became them to feel that, in accepting this resolution, they were pledging themselves to carry on the good work. By the report of the Committee of Managers just read, he saw that the cost on the average for each pupil was only $35 a year, for clothing, tuition and all other expenses. If they kept 30 scholars in the school, they might be supported in a good way, in respect of teachers and books and all other things, for $1,000 yearly; and he thought at that rate they could safely pledge themselves to carry on the work while it appeared that their labours were not in vain. They had the example of their late President to encourage them, and to show that any good seed sown in the hearts of this people was rarely lost. He had therefore great pleasure in moving the resolution.

Mr. Fearon seconded.

Dr. McCartee hoped he might be allowed, though a stranger, to make a few remarks in addition to what Dr. Williams had said. About 40 years ago, in the city of New York, Mrs. Bridgman was teaching a school there, and he had the good fortune to make her acquaintance when he was a little fellow, beginning his education, and at that time her talent and tact in managing the young impressed itself strongly upon him. Twenty-six years after, when Mrs. Bridgman came to Shanghai, he received a note from her, showing that she had not forgotten old pupils, or at least some of them, and that she still retained her kindly feelings towards them. He could corroborate all that Dr. Williams had said, and was glad that this institution was started to sustain the character and work of one for whom he had so high a respect as the late Mrs. Bridgman.

The Chairman said it might be mentioned as one of the satisfactory results of Mrs. Bridgman's efforts, that she was not forgotten by her old pupils. He had been at Chefoo last summer, during the time Mrs. Bridgman was there. She was then in a state of health which rendered it difficult for her to look after herself; and it must be gratifying to those who had the well-being of the Chinese at heart, and who wished to discover evidences of grateful feeling, such as might be looked for in other divisions of the human family, to know that Mrs. Bridgman found there her home, her very appropriate home, in the house of one of her scholars—a house furnished with many foreign appliances—and that she was taken care of as well, and by people as careful for and as loving to her, as any one could be. This might be taken as an indication of what many of her scholars would have done for her, if it was in their power. He had to propose the following resolution, for the choice of a Committee of Managers and Trustees for the ensuing year—

That the sincere thanks of the Society be offered to the Committee of Managers for the services they have kindly rendered during the past twelve months; and that the following persons be appointed officers for the coming year.

President—	Mrs. Nils Möller,
Lady Visitors—	Mrs. Fearon.
	Mrs. Reid.
	Mrs. Seward.
	Mrs. McCartee.
Treasurer	Mr. R. I. Fearon.
Auditor	Mr. D. Reid.
Secretary	Rev. E. H. Thomson.

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The three gentlemen named being likewise trustees.

Rev. Mr. BUTCHER seconded the resolution, which was passed.

Mr. REID proposed -

That the thanks of the members of the Shanghai Female School Society be given to the Rev. E. W. Syle and Mrs. Syle, for their zealous and untiring efforts in behalf of the Society, whose success thus far, the members feel, is chiefly due to Mr. and Mrs. Syle's efficient management of the School. And further—while regretting that they are so soon to be deprived of this valuable aid, the members desire to unite in wishing Mr. and Mrs. Syle the best of health, happiness and success, in whatever sphere of duties they may be called upon to occupy.

In offering this resolution he might say that he did so with very great pleasure. Mr. Syle had shown a devotion and interest in the welfare of this Society which he was sure those of them who had watched his career had every pleasure in testifying to. Some of them might possibly differ as to the system of education which Mr. Syle thought most suitable, but they would all most cordially accord to him their satisfaction with the present condition of the school. The cleanliness of the establishment, and the whole appearance of the children was most interesting; and although these might not rise into the foremost ranks of Society, it was satisfactory to know that a number were, through the Society's means, rescued from what would be a miserable condition.

Dr. WILLIAMS seconded the resolution. The school showed that Mr. and Mrs. Syle had one very great faculty, of pleasing and interesting children, because they loved them so much. And the happiness of the children was evidently a kind of reciprocation of this kindness bestowed in the care of them. Mr. Syle, on his departure from this place, with which he was so much associated for nearly thirty years, if he did not return, carried with him the respect and love of all who knew him. And one was freer to say what they would of his efforts, seeing that he was not present. One could sympathise with him in going from the field in which he had taken such great interest; and there must be many among the Chinese who looked upon him as one endeared to them both as a man, a friend, and a missionary.

Dr. MCCARTEE moved a vote of thanks to the Masonic Brethren for the use of the room, and to the Chairman for his kindness in presiding. Their Masonic friends made it their business to do kindness, and all the return they could make them was to acknowledge it.

CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

The ordinary annual meeting of shareholders was held at Hongkong on the 19th. Present: the Hon. H. Lowcock (Chairman), Hon. P. Ryrie, Messrs. Arthur, Forbes, Heaton, Deacon, Coxon, Chinoy, Coughtrie, Falconer, Fairbairn, Notley, Baker, McDouall, and Leveroy.

The Report being taken as read, the Chairman proposed its adoption and the passing of the accounts presented. This was seconded by Mr. Coxon, and carried unanimously.

REPORT.

The Directors have the pleasure to lay before you a statement of the Company's accounts for the six months ending the 31st of December last.

The amount of premium collected during that period is $70,138.29, which, after deducting Re-insurances, Commissions, Losses and all charges (including the balance of preliminary expenses left over from last year), also taking into account the sum of $24,000 due to Shareholders for interest on the 1st January, 1872, and adding interest due on Deposits, &c., leaves the sum of $140,010.60 standing at the Company's credit. In this amount is included the $60,000 left at the Credit of Working Account on the 31st December, 1870, which, having become clear profit, has now been placed to Reserve Fund, whilst the balance of $80,010.60 is held to the Credit of Working Account until the close of the current year.

The Directors offer you their congratulations upon the successful result thus shown, which they have every reason to hope will enable them to build up their Reserve Fund to the amount prescribed in clause 120 of the Articles of Association, viz: $100,000, and also to pay a substantial bonus to contributing shareholders at the beginning of next year.

Mr. S. W. Pomeroy having resigned upon his leaving the Colony, Mr. W. H. Forbes has been elected to fill the vacancy at the Board. Messrs. Condit and Ryrieretire from the Direction in accordance with the 86th clause of the Articles of Association, but, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

Balance Sheet 31st December, 1871.

LIABILITIES.

Capital Account.		
Paid up Capital on 4,000 Shares		$400,000.00
Reserve Fund.		
Amount placed to Credit at date		60,000.00
Accounts Payable.		
Sundry Amounts due at date, including unclaimed Interest, estimated expenses of Shanghai Fire Engine &c.		5,918.84
Working Account.		
Balance 31st December, 1871		104,010.60
		$569,929.44

ASSETS.

Cash at Banks		$ 32,063.32
Deposits at Banks.		
Bearing Interest.		
Oriental Bank Corporation.	$ 60,000.00	
Chartered Mercantile Bank	125,000.00	
Hongkong & Shanghai Bank.	125,000.00	
Invested.		
In East India Government 5½ per cent Rupee Paper	116,539 34	
Loan.		
To Hongkong Hotel Co. on Mortgage	90,000.00	
		516,539.34
Preliminary Expenses account.		
Amount at Credit	712.61	
Written off as per Working Account	712.61	
		.....
Furniture account.		
Office Furniture, &c		857.84
Fire Engine account.		
Cost of Steam Fire Engine at Shanghai	4,071.06	
Contribution to cost of Engine at Kobe	400.00	
		4,471.06
Accounts Receivable.		
Balance of December Premium to be received from Agencies, &c.	6,713.30	
Interest due on Deposits at Banks and on E. I. Government Paper	9,284 58	
		15,997.88
		$569,929.44

Mr. Forbes proposed, and Mr. Deacon seconded, the re-appointment of Messrs. Condit and Ryrie, the retiring Directors. Carried unanimously.

Mr. Arthur proposed, and Mr. Heaton seconded, the re-appointment of Messrs. Deacon and McDouall as Auditors. Carried unanimously.

The Chairman then observed that the Company had now arrived at the end of the second year of its existence. Without wishing in the least to give any credit to the Board of Directors, he must congratulate the shareholders on the results of the Company's working during those two years. During the past year it had been particularly successful, comparing favourably with that of the other local offices. The net premia amounted to $140,000, whereas in the ten months of the previous year it had only been $104,000, and if they added for the other two months in the same proportion, it would still be only $126,000. This was a considerable advance to make in a year. Something had been said outside—he did not know whether it was advisable to mention these things—but the question had been asked why the Company paid no bonus this year on the amount of premium contributed. Nearly all the shareholders must be aware that they could not, in conformity with the Articles of Association, pay any bonus until the Reserve Fund amounted to $100,000. At present it amounted to only $60,000, that sum having been transferred from working account, leaving a balance of $80,000 at credit of working account. This year, if they should incur no heavy losses, they hoped to transfer $40,000 of this balance to Reserve Fund, leaving $40,000 in hand, of which it was proposed to return 25 per cent. per annum, or 50 per cent. altogether, on all the contributions for the two years, in proportion to the various amounts of premium contributed. This would leave $20,000 in hand, which would again be carried to Reserve Fund. This was far better than giving any bonus at present, because if they did so and had any serious losses they would have to entrench largely on their capital. It was very short-sighted policy to pay a bonus unless the Company was first in a good position, and he believed the thinking portion of the public were more likely to give business to an office with a Reserve Fund than to one which paid an early bonus. In fact, within the last year many residents who were not shareholders, and who used to give their business to home offies, now gave it to them, and he thought all would agree that it was best to increase the Reserve Fund before paying a bonus.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman was passed on the motion of Mr. Deacon.—*Daily Press.*

HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

The ordinary yearly meeting of shareholders was held on the 20th, the Hon. W. Keswick in the chair. The report and accounts were adopted on the motion of Dr. Adams, seconded by Mr. Robinson.

REPORT.

The General Managers have much pleasure in submitting the Annual Statement of the affairs of the Company made up to the 31st December, 1871, and in doing so would draw the attention of Shareholders to the continued satisfactory results shewn by the business.

The nett profit for the year 1870, amounting to $164,112.27, must be, according to Clauses 112 and 113 of the Articles of Association, appropriated as follows :—

20 per cent. as bonus to contributing Shareholders, giving 1740 per cent. on the amount of premia contributed	$ 32,822.45
To Reserve Fund, to make up $250,000	69,629.82
Balance	61,660.00
Total	$164,112.27

Of such Balance of $61,660,—30 per cent. goes to augmentation of Reserve Fund	$ 18,498.00
And for distribution amongst Shareholders generally as dividend, ($21581 per Share)	43,162.00
Total	$ 61,660.00

and if such appropriation be confirmed by the Shareholders, the accumulation in two years of so large a reserve as $268,498, cannot but add greatly to the strength of the Company.

The loan under Deed of Mortgage to the Dock Company of $250,000 continues to be a well secured and very satisfactory investment; and in effecting advances upon Real Estate, such as that of $47,000 which appears in the Accounts, and another for $30,000 settled during the past month, the Committee have directed their special attention to the attainment of undoubted security rather than to the rate of interest obtained.

The consulting committee, consisting of Messrs. R. Rowett, S. D. Sassoon, and J. F. Buxey, together with Messrs. G. F. Weller and J. McDouall, who have been provisionally elected since last meeting to fill vacancies caused by the resignation of Messrs. G. F. Heard and Jas. Berwick, will retire from office on the 20th instant, but with the exception of Mr. R. Rowett, who will be absent from the Colony, these gentlemen offer themselves for re-election.

Balance Sheet. 31st December, 1871.

Dr.

To Capital Account.		
Paid-up Capital on 2,000 shares at $200 per share		$400,000.00
To Accounts Payable.		
6 months' interest to 31st December, 1871	$24,000.00	
Sundry Accounts uncollected	8,507.89	
		32,507.89

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To Reserve Fund.			
Amount reserved from the Profits of year 1869			180,370.18
To Bonus Account, 1869.			
Amount unclaimed			72.98
To Working Account, 1870.			
Balance brought forward from last Account		$180,641.91	
Add further Premium, etc., not included in the last Statement.		781.19	
		$181,423.10	
Less Losses and Claims	$12.123.81		
Remuneration to Consulting Committee and Auditors, and Sundry other payments	5,187.02		
		17,310.83	
Net Profit for 1870			164,112.27
To Balance of Working Account 1871			176,512.31
			$953,575.63

Cr.

By Cash in current & deposit accounts, &c.—		
With the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, on Fixed Deposit.....	$303,000.00	
With the Oriental Corporation, on Fixed Deposit.....	175,000.00	
With the Chartered Mercantile Bank of India, London and China, on Fixed Deposit.....	35,000.00	
Loan to the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company, Limited, under Deed of Mortgage	250,000.00	
Loan to Mok See Yeong and others, under Deed of Mortgage	47,000.00	
With the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, in Current Account.....	42,744.10	
In hand.....	1,948.95	
		$ 4,693.05
By Accounts Receivable.		
Balance of December Premium, etc., to be received from Shanghai, Northern Ports, etc.....	$15,182.76	
Interest due on Investments to 31st December, 1871.....	18,811.13	
		33,993.89
By Hiogo Branch.		
Balance due by the Estate of Glover and Co.		900,69
By Steam Fire Engine.		
Cost of Steam Engine, etc.....		3,158.00
By Hankow Fire Engine.		
Cost of Engine, etc.....		650.00
By Ningpo Fire Engine.		
Cost of Engine, etc.....		180.00
		$953,575.63

Messrs. Sassoon, Buxey, Weller and McDouall, the retiring members of the Consulting Committee, were re-elected, on the motion of Mr. Hart, seconded by Mr. Coxon.

In the room of Mr. Rowett, who resigned on leaving the Colony, Mr. McDouall proposed, and Mr. Sassoon seconded, the election of Mr. Hunter, which was carried unanimously.

Messrs. Hart and Coxon were re-appointed Auditors on the motion of Mr. McDouall, seconded by Mr. Hunter.

A special vote being necessary for the remuneration to the Consulting Committee, Mr. Hart proposed, and Dr. Adams seconded, that it should be the same as formerly, $500 each. This was carried without a dissentient, and the business of the meeting was thus concluded.—*Daily Press.*

TIENTSIN LOCAL RELIEF FUND.

In order to alleviate the sufferings of the native population caused by the late floods, the Foreign Community of Tientsin had collected some money, with a view to distribute it in the villages close to the Settlement.

On Monday evening (5th February) a final meeting of the subscribers was held in the Reading Room of the Tientsin Club, when the Committee, consisting of Messrs. C. Arendt and E. Meyer, (the Rev. Mr. Stanley being absent in the interior,) laid before the subscribers a statement of the relief given, with the amount collected for this purpose.

Names of villages visited.	Number of persons relieved. Adults.	Children.
First visit, 22d Dec. 1871.		
1 Hsio Wang-chuang	55	26
2 T'ung-chia-lou	95	45
3 Ch'ien-chien-shan	70	38
4 H'ou-chien-shan	198	123
5 Pa-li-t'ai-tsze	63	37
2nd visit, 1st Feb., 1872.		
1 Hsiao Wang-chuang.....	55	26
2 T'ung-chia-lou	95	45
3 Ch'ien-chien-shan	70	39
4 H'ou-chien-shan	198	123
5 Pa-li-t'ai-tsze	63	37
6 Wu-yao-t'sun	54	42
Total.....Adults...	1,016	Ch. 581

Each adult recg. 900 large *cash* = 914,400 *cash*
" child recg. 600 " " = 348,600
Total amount distributed..... 1,263,000
large *cash*, or T. Tls. 726.00

The money was personally distributed by the members of the Committee, in company with a Chinese official appointed by H. E. the Governor-General Lihungchang, H. E. at the same requesting the Committee to convey his thanks to the Foreign Community for their liberal contributions.

The Committee stated that they had been much gratified by the friendly way in which they were received by the villagers, and that they had been glad to find the distress amongst them not so great as anticipated.

The funds now being exhausted, it was also resolved at the meeting to raise another amount, for the further relief of the sufferers.

Tientsin, 5th Feb., 1872.

Law Reports.

SUPREME COURT.

Shanghai, Feb. 22nd.

Before C. W. Goodwin, Esq., Deputy Chief Judge.

The P. & O. Company *v.* E. J. Deslandes.

Detention of a chest of Malwa Opium (valued at $600)—claim for its return and $50 as damages for its detention.

The following jury was empannelled :—Messrs. J. P. Barnes, H. Symons, A. Anderson, J. Barr Robertson, and F. O. Eustace.

Mr. Bird for plaintiffs.

Mr. Eames for defendant.

Mr. Bird opened by stating the parties to the case and the ground of action as set forth in the petition :—

"The plaintiffs are owners of a certain British steamship called the *Madras*, carrying mails, goods, and passengers, between Hongkong, Shanghai, and other places. The defendant is the master of a certain receiving ship, or opium hulk, at Shanghai, known as the *Emily Jane*. The steamer *Madras* arrived at Shanghai from Hongkong, having on board, amongst other cargo, 314 chests Malwa opium, consigned to Messrs. E. D. Sassoon & Co. On the arrival of said steamer, Messrs. E. D. Sassoon & Co. indorsed the bills of lading of the said 314 chests Malwa opium to the defendant, who look delivery of the same from the *Madras*. Amongst the said chests of opium—for which the bills of lading were endorsed to the defendant, of which he took delivery, as mentioned in the 4th paragraph of this petition—there were 9 chests marked H S and S D below, and numbered 290 to 298, inclusively; and there was also on board the said steamer *Madras*, and in the custody of the plaintiffs, as owners of the said steamer, one other chest of opium bearing the same mark H S and S D below, and numbered 298 on the outside covering, or gunny, and on the inside lid 288. Whilst making delivery of the said 314 chests of opium to the defendant, the plaintiffs, in error, and in addition to all the 9 chests marked H S and S D below, numbers 290 to 298, inclusive, to which the said bill of lading related, delivered to him, and he received the chest described in the preceding paragraph, and he thus obtained 315 chests, in lieu of 314 to which he was entitled. The plaintiffs, immediately on discovering their error, applied to the defendant for the return of the said chest of opium, but the defendant wholly declined and refused, and still declines and refuses to return the same to the plaintiffs, and detains the same from them, whereby the plaintiffs have been and are greatly damnified; and the plaintiffs therefore pray that the defendant may be ordered to return to them the said chest of Malwa opium, with fifty dollars damages for its detention, and that the plaintiffs may have such further and other relief as the nature of the case may require."

The following was the answer filed by the defendant :—

"He did receive from the plaintiffs steamship called the *Madras*, 314 chests opium, as stated in the petition, but he did not, by mistake or otherwise, receive another chest or any further quantity of opium, as alleged in the petition. The defendant does not detain and has not at any time detained from, or refused to deliver to, the plaintiffs a chest or any other quantity of opium of which they, the plaintiffs, are entitled to demand delivery." The Court would therefore see from these pleadings that the issue between the parties was whether or not one chest of opium had been delivered to, and received by the defendant, in excess of the number to which he was entitled under the bill of lading. The action was brought against defendant because he was holder of the bill of lading and was the person who received the opium in question, though it might be well known to the jury that Messrs. E. D. Sassoon & Co. had allowed themselves to be advertised as agents for the *Emily Jane*, and there was every reason to believe that the action was defended by them—defendant in Court was merely their servant; and if Messrs. Sassoon & Co. thought the chest of opium should have been delivered back, they would have ordered defendant to do so, and he must therefore have acted with the cognisance and consent of Sassoon & Co. The question at issue was entirely one of fact, and the jury were the constitutional judges in such a case. It would be for them to say, upon the evidence adduced, whether plaintiffs proved the fact that a chest of opium too many had been received on board and delivered to defendant. If they found that this was so, they would find for the plaintiffs; otherwise, for defendant. The facts under which the action had been brought about were shortly as follows: In taking in cargo at Hongkong, there was, among other shipments, some opium consigned to Messrs. E. D. Sassoon & Co. That opium was marked on the bills of lading in a certain way to distinguish it, and plaintiffs would show that instead of 314 chests bearing these marks and numbers, there were delivered 315, one being a chest which was marked 298 on the outside and was sent to Shanghai by mistake, having been consigned to a firm in Hongkong. But inasmuch as it bore the same marks as that for defendant's principals, it came to be looked upon as part of what he should receive. In Hongkong the opium had been tallied in at two gangways. The third officer was tallying in at the fore gangway and the second at the aft one, and the same was the case at Shanghai in discharging, and so it was that one chest bearing the number 298 outside was tallied in at each gangway, and again delivered at each. This mistake was not discovered till some time after, when enquiries were instituted in consequence of information from Hongkong that one chest bearing the mark H. S. S. D., (the same mark that nine chests—from 290 to 298—for Messrs. Sassoon bore) number 288 had been sent up. Messrs. Barnes and Withers went on board the *Emily Jane*, and repeated their visit a few hours later, in consequence of a letter from the defendant. On going down to the lower hold they saw two chests set aside, pointing to which defendant said "there are the chests." Both chests were marked 298, but on the lid of one, from which the gunny was partly removed, there was the number 288, with the letters H. S. S. D.—the very marks and number they were looking for. Those two gentlemen would give evidence as to this; and from entries in the books of the *Emily Jane*, it would be shown that a chest too many of that mark had been delivered to defendant—that whereas he should have received only 9, he did, in truth and in fact, receive 10. Defendant had stated in certain letters that he had not received this chest, and that the full number of his chests was complete, from which he would argue that he had not received any chest to which he was not entitled. But that did not follow, as defendant might have received one to which he was not entitled, and be short one which he should have had. The evidence of the officers would have this additional weight that they were delivering from different gangways, and the one could not say what was delivered by the other. If the third officer told the Court that he received 71 chests from his gangway, and 24 at the aft gangway, on relieving the second officer, and that the latter

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received 220 chests, *ergo* there were 315 chests delivered. The plaintiffs traced this particular chest to the possession of the defendant; they would prove that Messrs. Barnes and Withers actually saw two chests standing on defendant's deck, of the same number outside, but one bearing the missing number on the lid; and it would be for the Jury to say whether, when they had produced this evidence, plaintiffs had made out their case. There was no point of law to which he need refer at that time; indeed, unless the defence involved it, in which case he would hereafter comment on it, there was no point of law to be brought up—it was altogether a question of fact. In conclusion, he had only to say that if the Jury found that defendant unlawfully detained this chest of opium, they would find that he was bound to pay for it, and would further assess such damages as plaintiffs were entitled to for its detention.

FRANK HOUGH COWIE, sworn, stated—I was 2nd officer of the steamship *Madras* on the occasion of the voyage now in question. It is part of my duty to tally cargo. Before the ship left Hongkong I did so, and among the cargo there was a quantity of opium. I take in cargo, package for package, by mark and number, and enter these in a book. I marked every chest I took in on this occasion. (By consent, the books used were handed in as evidence.)

Some difficulty was experienced in settling how the shipments should be proved from these books, as to go over all the numbers would be a very tedious affair. It was ultimately agreed to confine this evidence to proving the duplicates, as more directly bearing on the point at issue.

Examination resumed.—I tallied in a duplicate of C. F. 879. I can't say what number it was given in exchange for. The numbers of this mark were 887, 879, 886, 894, 870, 871, 882, 891, 880, 890, 883, 877, 876, 892, 888, 879, 873, 872, 993, 881, 875, 889, 874, 885—24 chests. There were two of 879 in that run. Of E. D. S. T. S. O., there are duplicates of 3037 and 3033; none of I in diamond over E. D. S., nor are there duplicates of any other mark. I did not take in any of the mark H. S. S. D. In all I had three duplicates. I tallied cargo at the after gangway both there and on my arrival in Shanghai, and I received 220 chests of certain marks and numbers. Of the mark H. S. S. D. I delivered 292, 298, 296, and 297, 4 chests. Mr. Lindsay was taking delivery of the opium. I have frequently delivered to him before, for E. D. Sassoon & Co. Mr. Lindsay was ticking off the numbers in a book, with a coloured pencil, as he received them. He did so chest by chest as they were delivered. There was a Custom House officer on board, but he did not take an entry of chests delivered. He only kept a memo. of each boatload that left the ship. He sometimes got the information on reference to me, sometimes to Mr. Lindsay or any other taking delivery of opium, sometimes by the bamboo tallies from the boat. At the time no remark or claim was made respecting any chest short delivered. Mr. Lindsay signed the receipt for the cargo, and the bills of lading shown me all bear his signature. If I found anything wrong about a chest, I usually made a note on the margin of the bill; sometimes I allow the gunny to be cut, when the number may be found all right below. Until all have been taken out, duplicates are kept on one side, and if any are short the duplicate is handed over, if bearing the same mark. The marks of opium from Bombay are usually legible, but the numbers are often wrong. There are three here, according to my book.

To Mr. EAMES.—Mr. Lindsay and I kept a note of each chest as it went out. I don't compare my book with him. I trust him when he says he has all his opium, and he signs the bill of lading. I keep the account for my own information, and by it I could have checked any further claim for a chest. The chests are also counted by a bamboo tally being handed into the boat with them. I don't count up to see how many chests are sent out, I ask how many bamboos. I count up when all is finished, and in this case I agreed with Mr. Lindsay in having 314. Number 296 was found and delivered after the other cargo. The Customhouse officer sometimes got his account from me, sometimes from the cargo boat, and when all the opium was discharged he compared with me. We did not agree in this instance; we differed in one chest. He asked "how's this, I bring it one more than you do?" I said "you made a mistake," and he shook his head and said no. We were two chests short on that trip. Soon after we discharged, a letter came to me demanding a chest H. S. S. D. 288. I can't say if any gunnies were cut on this occasion. It is a common thing to find a different number on the chest. Frequently the officer receives duplicates without cutting the gunnies.

To Mr. BIRD—I take the mark and number of each package as it goes over the side. I was delivering cargo aft; another officer was delivering forward. I would not be in a position to know how many of a particular mark was delivered by him. It is possible that 5 or 6 chests of one run would be delivered forward, and some aft, and I would have to depend on the common honesty of the person taking delivery. At that moment, and till I compared statements with the other officer, I would not be in a position to say how many were delivered. The Custom House officer brought to my notice a statement of amount delivered. He produced a small memorandum book, which I examined. It contained the amount of opium in each boat as it left the ship, and he made out that one chest more had been delivered than I had. I said he must have been mistaken, as I had all my cargo ticked off, and everybody said they had their complement. In the case of a duplicate number we sometimes open the gunny, and in case of dispute I take the mark on the lid if it corresponds to what we want. The correct mark is on the lid. I delivered of the marks H. S. S. D. Nos. 296 and 297.

WILLIAM ALFRED WHEELER, sworn, stated—I was third-officer of the *Madras* on the voyage. I was tallying cargo at the fore gangway. I relieved the 2nd officer at one time at the after gangway. I made entries at the time of taking in cargo. I produce my books. At the fore gangway, I took in 71 chests of certain marks and numbers, and at the aft gangway when I relieved the 2nd officer I took in 24. Of H S S D, I tallied in numbers 296, 293, 290 294, 298, 297, 295, 291. Those entries are as they came on board at the fore gangway. Aft I tallied in two, 292 and 298, of that mark. I tallied out cargo at the fore gangway on arrival at Shanghai. In all I tallied out by my book 68 of those marks and numbers. Of H S S D, I tallied out 291, 293, 294, 295, 298, and 290—six chests. 297 was passed aft, as it was broken, and 296 at the time could not be found, as other opium was in the way. It was afterwards found and I saw it passed aft, with 297, between decks. Mr. Lindsay was taking delivery from my gangway, and I always deliver cargo of those marks to him. I did not tally out any opium then at the after-gangway. Mr. Lindsay left me to take delivery of cargo aft from the 2nd officer. In what I delivered I had two duplicate numbers, E D S, T S O, 3,133 and 3,112. In H S S D, I have a duplicate of 298. When I find any number in duplicate it is placed on one side, till the whole of the shipment is delivered, and if there is a blank number, that number is taken for it. I never deliver numbers of one mark for another. I deliver only duplicates of the same mark and take the blank out. I often have duplicates, the numbering is very inaccurate. There was an officer from the Customs on board, who made a memo of the numbers put into the boat, and he generally, in fact I believe always, asked me how many I had put into the boat. The second officer was discharging at the aft, at the time I was doing so at the fore, gangway, but there was only one Customs' officer present.

To Mr. EAMES—I discharged of H.S.S.D. six chests. Some time after, I was informed there was a chest of that mark missing. When I have completed discharging, I may, perhaps, compare with the other officer. The bills of lading are signed before we could compare, however. I only received a certain number of chests by B/L, and I discharged so many. We could not compare at once. We trust to the man's honesty that he will not receive too many. We take a careful tally, and we don't require to compare our notes. Whoever takes delivery of my cargo, produces his bill of lading, and I deliver according to it. The number 298 in my book showed no duplicate. How can the officers compare every five minutes, with 20 men to deal with? After the whole was discharged, I was informed that a chest numbered 288 was missing—not 298. We didn't require to compare with each other, as we did not receive a chest of that number. We have proved by our books that we delivered two of 298. I discharge just so many chests as I take in at Hongkong. I copy certain cargo into my book, and on the other side I know it must go out, and out it goes. I did not compare with the second officer.

To Mr. BIRD—I was informed that a chest, No. 288, marked H.S.S.D., was missing from Hongkong, and on looking at my book, said I knew nothing about it. Before leaving, I had not compared with the second officer, but if I had, I would have found that 10 chests were delivered. There is not much time nowadays between the time we deliver and take in cargo at a port. There is a book for each gangway, and when I tallied at the aft gangway, I would enter into the one belonging to it.

FREDERICK DALLAS BARNES, sworn, stated—I am agent here for the P. & O. Company. I had letters from Hongkong advising me that a chest of opium marked H. S. S. D., number 288, was sent on by mistake in the *Madras*, and subsequently a telegram saying that it had been delivered to the *Emily Jane* as a duplicate number of 298.

Mr. BIRD proceeded to ask as to Mr. Barnes visiting Messrs. E. D. Sassoon & Co. about the matter, but Mr. Eames objected, and Mr. Bird departed from the question.

Witness continued—I went on board the *Emily Jane*. I said to Captain Deslandes "you have a chest of opium in excess of your number, a duplicate of 298." He denied, and said "no I have not." He produced his gross weight book, which I examined. I am now shown it. On one page I see an entry H. S. S. D. 290 to 298, and against 298 there are the weights of two chests 217 and 219 lbs. Both are in pencil. (The book was handed in as evidence by plaintiffs' counsel.) The book was in this state when I saw it. Captain Deslandes said to his mate: Why, here you have taken a duplicate number, and there is no blank space for it. He roundly abused everybody present, and said how did this happen, and I knew nothing about it? He added "get up the unsold opium." About 40 chests of opium were got up, and none of that mark and number were found. I said, evidently it was not there; but that I expected Captain Deslandes to give up the chest as he evidently had received it. Shortly afterwards, I received a note from Captain Deslandes asking me to come on board the ship again. I went, with Mr. Withers. I met Mr. Shillim on deck; he told us to go down to the 'tween decks; we went; on getting below, Capt. Deslandes said there are your two chests, pointing to two chests that were standing apart, but among what they said was bargained opium. The gunnies were marked H. S. S. D. 298. The gunny had been removed from one chest. That chest was marked H. S. S. D. 288—the chest I was in search of. The mark was on the lid. That is the usual place for a mark. The chest had Chinese chops pasted on it, implying that it was sold. I said: it is evident you have my chest, will you deliver it? He said: no, I want first to see that I have my full quantity of chests. I then left the ship. Mr. Withers did not come with me. I have had twelve years experience of opium shipping. The opium coming from Bombay is often numbered incorrectly on the gunnies, but the right number is generally on the chest. The chest in question has not been delivered up to me. The Defendant had not made any claim for short delivery. On the contrary, he says he has received his right number of chests. I received these letters (handed in) from Defendant on the 17th. [1st.—Had not received one chest in excess, but duplicate Nos. of various marks; but that number of chests was correct, so declined to return chest in question. 2nd—Did not complain was one chest short; on contrary, had received 314, the number on bills of lading, and not one over. Letter to which 1st was in reply was a request for delivery order of chest in excess. Letter to which 2nd was a reply asked for mark and No. of chest of which defendant was short.] The Defendant has never specified to me the mark or number of any chest of which he is short.

To Mr. EAMES.—The defendant produced his book on my producing a letter from Messrs. Sassoon & Co. He did hesitate to produce it—a minute or two. I think the book is in the condition in which it first was. I did find the chest of which I was in search. The No.

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was on the lid of the chest. The No. on the gunny was 298. The No. was not indistinct. I can't swear there were not two numbers, one on the bag and one on the lid. I can swear the number 288 was there—as clear as the numbers are usually marked. The fact of there being two chests of the same mark and No. was conclusive to me under the circumstances that the extra one was the one I wanted. I was aware that duplicate chests of opium are often received here, of the same mark—perhaps 6 or 8 out of 1200 in one cargo. When Defendant proposed taking in account, I said, if you are one short I will pay you. I did say I knew where the chests were, I could see them before me. I did say that I knew where the chest was from our own telegram and letter. I am prepared to swear I did not turn my back and leave, on the question whether defendant would deliver the chest. Capt. Deslandes did tell me he was prepared to help me to discover any fraud if such had been. I was asked to go on board again. This was after he had taken account of stock so far as I know. He said, there are the two chests. I had communicated the fact of the chest being missing to the officers of the *Madras*. The answer us, that they had not the chest on board. If they had had time to compare their books, or if the fact had occurred to them they might have been able to trace the two 298's, but they had a large cargo to discharge and a large cargo to take in. If it had occurred to them that they had made a mistake, or that some one had taken too much, they would no doubt have done so.

To the Court—I sent off to the *Madras* to note whether there were such a chest as 288. They did not examine their book then. When they did so, they found the mistake.

To Mr. Bird—I asked whether they had a chest H. S. S. D. 288. The answer was, they knew nothing of such a chest, as they had taken none such on board.

George Withers.—I am in the employ of the P. & O. Co. We had a letter from Hongkong which informed us that a chest No. H.S. S. D. 288 was missing. I went on board the *Madras*, and was informed that it was not on board. In consequence of a telegram from Hongkong, I and Mr. Barnes went on board the *Emily Jane*. Mr. Barnes asked Captain D. if he had a chest No. H. S. S. D. No. 288. He said he had not. Mr. Barnes produced a letter from Messrs. Sassoon, and deft. produced his books. I am shown the book. I was under the impression I saw a mark over the 298 in pencil. Capt. Deslandes called for his officer and asked, when it was found that there were 10 chests, how it was he got that, when the bill of lading was for only 9, and there was no blank in the run of the numbers. He also sent to have the unsold cargo looked up, and we did not find any other of that mark. We left the ship about 12 o'clock, and Mr. Barnes having received a letter about two that afternoon, we went on board again. We met Mr. Shillim on the upper deck, and Mr. Barnes and I went down to the maindeck, where Mr. Deslandes was. Mr. Deslandes pointed to two chests standing apart, and said "there are the two chests." One was marked H.S.S.D. 298, and on the lid the number 288 which was the number we sought. Mr. Deslandes held up the gunny and showed that it also bore the mark 298 in two places; on the top and on one side. I saw the gunny, and the numbers were 298 as distinct as any marking might be. They were both unmistakeably 298; and on the lid, equally unmistakeably, the number was 288. Mr. Barnes asked Captain Deslandes to deliver the chest, as he must be sure he had received it in excess of his number. He said no, he could not, till he counted his opium. Mr. Barnes then left the ship, and Mr. Shillim came down. I remained, and Captain Deslandes said to me it was a very extraordinary affair, and asked if I thought it was necessary to send for Mr. Penfold. I said he could do as he pleased, the only thing we wanted was the chest of opium. All the opium was brought up, and was described as bargained opium. The edge of the particular chest was pasted round with Chinese chop paper which they told me meant that it was bargained opium. Defendant did not then, or at any other time, say that he had not received his whole quantity of opium, and he has not given up this chest either.

To Mr. Eames.—Capt Deslandes held the gunny up in his hand. In checking in cargo the gunny number is taken, but in discharging it often happens, in case of a duplicate number, that they take the lid. They would take it if a duplicate of the same mark, and if the run of the numbers was short. In five years I have never known a duplicate number taken without the officer reporting it to the office. I presume Captain Deslandes' intention in counting the opium was to find if he was short on the whole. Neither Mr. Barnes nor myself made any objection to his doing so.

To Mr. Bird.—If there was a discrepancy between the number on the gunny and that on the lid, we would take that on the lid, it is the custom to do so.

Certain books having been handed in, Mr. Bird said that closed the case for the plaintiffs.

Mr. Eames opened for the defence. He should be very sorry to invade the province of the Jury, but he felt that he had little to reply to. He had of course nothing to add to his learned friend's statement of the question of fact. The officers of the *Madras* had come into Court and said they relied on the good faith of those with whom they were acting; they did not compare their books to see whether their statements agreed. At the same time they had all admitted that it was quite unsafe to rely on the numbers written upon the gunnies, and that perhaps in the majority of instances these did not correspond with those upon the chests. It was stated to be the custom to take the chests upon these numbers and to fill up blanks with duplicates if they found there were any. In this case no discrepancy was discovered by the officers, and it was almost incredible that if it were in their books they should have failed to discover it. He need hardly suggest that there was a possibility in the interval which had occurred of the books being altered. The officers appeared even to have received and delivered not only 10 but 12 chests H. S. S. D.

Mr. Bird explained that the other two chests had been put on board by mistake at Hongkong, but retransferred to the hulk when the mistake was found out.

Mr. Eames accepted the explanation and continued. He thought the one fact that the officers seemed to have been so thoroughly careless about their discharging went to show that even supposing they had brought 315 instead of 314 chests from Hongkong, it seemed to him it was a very loose presumption to suppose that defendant must have received the odd chest. He would show to the satisfaction of the Jury that Mr. Lindsay had compared his books with the officers of the steamer. He would show by the Customs officer that he got his account of the cargo from the steamer, and the third officer had in fact testified that this was always the case. There was no other means of his getting one that he could rely on. The Customs officer would also tell them that his account of the cargo was the same as defendant's. The main reliance of the plaintiffs seemed to be that defendant's books showed a discrepancy. There was no sort of doubt that defendant had a duplicate of 298 and it was so entered, but there were left two blank numbers of that mark. The witnesses would be able to explain how these blanks occurred and were filled up; one chest had been broken and was held over, and another could not at first be found on the steamer. The lot of opium was sold. When defendant came to deliver, it was found that one was short, and one of another mark was stuck in which did not appear to have been weighed when sold with the lot, and a blank was left in the book against its number, for the weight. In the book appeared two numbers of 215 lbs. weight each. Whether this was a means of accounting for the whole number on board, or whether one was weighed twice and another passed without weighing was difficult to say. The probabilities too were rather strong against an extra chest being knowingly accepted and retained. In the first place his learned friend, for some reason best known to himself, had tried to impress upon the minds of the jury that Messrs. E. D. Sassoon were the real defendants here. But he did not know that, if they were interested in the cargo, they would likely be held responsible for a gross mistake by their Captain. If they were, the probabilities were much stronger in defendant's favour, for could the Jury believe that Mr. Deslandes was willing to sacrifice the position he had made here in the opium trade, or that a large firm would have their good name imperilled for the consideration of a chest of opium? For if the defendant was guilty of receiving and detaining the chest, knowing it to belong to some one else and that he had already got all his own, it would simply be a piece of swindling, an attempt to rob. And still, would defendant go and put the record of such an attempt in his books, and exhibit those books immediately when called upon? If the Jury proved defendant wrong they must find him nearly an idiot, or he would never have entered the receipt of the chest in his book. (The learned counsel made an explanation from the several books of the *Emily Jane*.) Knowing the uncertainty of numbers, the Jury would see that it was usual to go by the number of chests and not the number on the chests. The consignees tried to get the same marks, and they would take any number of that mark to fill up their blanks. When enquiry was made about this chest Captain Deslandes had his cargo counted. This chest marked 298 was found, but the number might be taken for anything. The gunny had 298 on one side and 296 on the end, at least two people, in the opium trade, whom Capt. Deslandes got to see it, said one number looked like 296. This chest was one of the lot marked H. S. S. D., sold to a Chinaman, and upon which he put his chop, and seemed to have taken the place of 296 in the transaction, that number being missing when delivery was taken from the steamer. The defendant might possibly have received an improper number but had not a chest too much. He thought he need not say any more, but he would endeavour to satisfy the Jury upon the evidence that there was no intention on the part of Captain Deslandes or his mate to defraud or swindle.

Elias J. Deslandes, sworn, stated—I am in charge of the opium ship *Emily Jane*. I received some opium from the *Madras* some time in Nov. last. I received 314 chests, according to the bills of lading handed in to-day. About the 18th December Mr. Barnes came on board, in an awful rage, and accused me of having a chest of opium of theirs, and said that Mr. Shillim had said I told him so. He gave me a note from Mr. Shillim. I immediately produced my book, which was then just as it is now. On examining against 298, there was a weight of 217 and one of 219 lbs., which took me by surprise. I called Mr. Lindsay about it, but he could give me no explanation at the time. I went on shore with Mr. Barnes and Mr. Withers to see Mr. Shillim. I followed them. I asked Mr. Shillim if he had told Mr. Barnes I had said I had a chest in excess. About 6 or 7 months ago he was on board when I received a chest of the same mark, which I remarked was not ours.

Mr. Bird objected to this as not being evidence, and the Court sustained the objection, and concurred that the matters between the witness and Mr. Shillim should not be gone into.

Witness continued—I told Mr. Barnes I would count the opium, and he said it was no use, he knew where the chest was. I asked where it was; he did not reply. I counted the opium and found there were 289 chests and 3 halves in the ship at the time, of which 262 and 3 halves were bargained and sold to Chinese, and 27 were unsold. Of this H. S. S. D., the bill of lading called for 9 chests. On first day of receiving it from the str. we got 8, which were sold as they came on the deck. Their numbers were 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296 (or duplicate 298), and 298. 297 was not taken delivery of, on account of the chest being broken. The duplicate 298 was passed as 296 in bargaining with the Chinese. Eight were bargained for but the puchaser would have taken more. He settled to take the whole of the mark, and we gave him one T. S. O. instead. 298 was proved to be a duplicate number, and where we have two weights against a number in the book it is a duplicate. I only wanted one chest more. Two blanks remained in that column then. A small sampan was sent off next day when 13 chests were sent from the steamer, and 297 came in that boat, but no 296, though it appears by the book there is one there. Instead of the ninth chest I believe a chest of T. S. O. 3,149 was actually sold, and its weight would have been entered if delivered.

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Counsel argued the immateriality of this evidence, but after a long discussion the Court allowed it, with a view of getting witness's explanation.

Witness continued—I only received 9 chests of H. S. S. D., 8 one day and one chest the following day. A Chinaman agreed to take the whole of the nine chests and I had but 8 to deliver. I gave him 7 chests of T. S. O., as he had to get 15 altogether. He was to take 9 of one and 6 of the other. When opium comes on board through the port it is put in a scale and the gross weight taken. We then keep it down in the hold, where it is locked up. I keep the keys. This lot was taken in in the daytime. There might be three or four people between decks. We rely on the gunny for the numbers, and never take these from the lid.

To Mr. BIRD—I am in the service of Messrs. E. D. Sassoon & Co. The letter Mr. Barnes brought me mentioned no number, but said if I had a chest in excess I should deliver it to him. The words were to that effect. Mr. Barnes informed me the chest was H. S. S. D. 288. I looked at the books. I dont remember if he said the chest was a duplicate number 298. When I sent for Mr Barnes the second time the gunny on a chest had been cut to see the number on the lid. I saw it was 288, and Mr Barnes told me it was that number he had, and I had Sassoon's note to deliver the one he wanted if in excess. I ignore the number on the lid. There were two numbers of 298. I might have taken one for 296, but certainly not for 288. I never go by the lid of the chest, and this rule is universal here. We have often found the gunnies incorrectly numbered, but we don't take the lid as any test. The gunny was ripped. As soon as the opium came on board it was weighed and passed below, and when sold the paper chop is pasted on it and the gunny roughly sewn over. I don't know that anyone saw 288 while this was being done. We pay no attention to that; there may be several numbers on the lid. This opium having been sold immediately on coming on board, the paper chop must have been pasted on it soon afterwards. I said 298 was taken for 296. There are two chests 298, but on one end one is marked 296. Two of 298 are entered as received. One was sold for 296, which was missing. I know nothing about the book in which 296 is marked, crossed through twice with blue pencil. My officer will explain that. I state again that 298 was received for 296, on one of the ends the latter number being marked. I repeat there were only nine chests of H. S. S. D. I did receive 296, one of the duplicates was 296. I did not remove the gunny from the chest and hold it up for examination. I may or may not have done so. I know Mr. Barnes saw 288 on the chest and 298 on the gunny. I did not say to him "there, there are your chests." I produce the gunny bag. (The bag was shown to the Jury.) These two bags have been on board the *Emily Jane* ever since the case began. I swear the bag is the same as that on the chest. I know it because there was some tar on it which spoiled a new pair of trousers for me.

GEORGE LINDSAY, sworn, stated—I am chief officer of the *Emily Jane*. It is my business to take delivery of opium, and I got some from the *Madras* in Nov. last. In takine delivery I check each chest that goes over the side. They are also checked by the bamboos. I am shown the book which I used for checking cargo. Turning to the mark H. S. S. D., I received 8 chests in the first boat, and one chest the day after. I received only 9 chests. Every time I have a boatload I compare tallies with the officer of the str. We have no further comparison. My accounts did not differ from those of the steamer. I go over the accounts with the officer before I sign the bills of lading. I took this opium alongside the receiving ship—nine chests. The man in the boat gets a bamboo for each chest from a Malay on the steamer, and we keep these, which correspond with my books.

To Mr. BIRD—I remember the officers delivering at the fore and after gangways. They were Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Cowie. I took delivery first from the fore gangway. I don't remember how many chests I received from the officer of the fore gangway the first day. I only remember the number of 294. I cannot tell, and have no note of, how many I received from the officer at the after gangway. I don't know what I received of any mark from either gangway, separately. I compared the amount of each boatload with each officer before it left the steamer. I know they said they did not do this, but what they said was false in that respect. I heard their evidence. I remember Messrs. Barnes and Withers coming on board wanting a chest of opium. Captain Deslandes did not use any abusive language or rate me for having received on board a chest in excess. He did not say "You have received 10 chests, and why did you not say so?" He said, supposing I had received one chest over, why didn't I tell him. He did not say I had received one. He ordered me to get up the opium, to count how many chests were in the ship. If the books had been perfectly clear on the point, he might have said so simply, and not ordered the opium to be counted. I make the entries in the cargo-book. They are in ink. I use pencil in making the rough jotting. The numbers H S S D are in ink, but they are checked in pencil. The entries are made in ink before going alongside the steamer, and checked off as I get the chests. 296 is checked off, showing it was received. In the other book, the entries are made by the clerk from the bills of lading. The pencil marks opposite them represent the weight. Entry 217 and 219 is in the handwriting of one of the clerks. There are two different handwritings and red and blue pencil is used. Two of them are entered by the gunner, and the rest by the clerk. The weight would be put in as they are weighed. I can't explain how there are these two weights against 298.

JOHN ROSS, sworn, stated—I am a Custom House officer, and was on board the *Madras* when she was discharging here on 27th Nov. last. I keep an account of the opium the best way I can. I get the account from the officers when they are working two gangways. I did so here and found that my account agreed with the officers'. I produce my book, showing that 1,259 chests were delivered, according to the account of the officers of the steamer and of the opium vessels, though by the permits there should have been 1,261. I make a memorandum, which, when I find it corresponds with the permit, I tear up. The total of the permit of the *Emily Jane* was 314, which agreed with the statement of the officers as to the amount delivered.

To Mr. BIRD—The particulars as to quantity to be taken from each ship corresponds to the bill of lading. The stamped bill of lading is a permit. It was on 27th Nov. I found two chests short and asked the officer how it was. He said these two were coming up in the *Aden*. I can't swear of my own personal knowledge that only 314 chests were delivered to the *Emily Jane*.

To the COURT—I don't know that I said to the officer 315 had been put into the boat when 314 was what he had to deliver.

JOHN ALFRED KNOX, sworn, said—I was clerk on the *Emily Jane* in Nov., when this opium was received. I assisted in taking an account of stock, when there was a dispute about a missing chest. One afternoon Mr. Barnes came on board, and I went down into the hold and counted and made up a portion of the stock, the chief officer completing this next day. There were two chests of H. S. S. D. which I put down as 298, but one of which was passed afterwards as 296. Captain Deslandes was also busy counting them.

To Mr. BIRD—I saw two chests which I took for 298. "Passed for 296" is in my handwriting.

Capt. Deslandes said it was his writing.

Witness—I am prepared to swear it is mine. I recollect it perfectly. I wrote it because there were two duplicate numbers, and I referred to the sale book and found one of these chests had been passed for 296. I did not refer to the gross weight book. Six chests were all I saw.

Mr Bird handed in this memo. as evidence.

To the COURT—I could not make the statement up at the moment, I would have to go to the office to refer to the books.

G. B. HILL, sworn, stated—I am in charge of the receiving ship *Berwick Walls*. In taking count of opium I look for the numbers on the gunnies. We very frequently find them indistinctly marked, and that there are duplicate numbers. We ask permission from the officer to cut the cover and see if the number on the lid is correct, and sometimes place it on one side. Sometimes it is sent to us before we notice, and we retain it, if the quality is equal. I remember seeing a chest with the mark H. S. S. D. and number something 98. It was not distinctly marked and might have been taken for 96.

To Mr. BIRD—If the number on the gunny is the same as the bill of lading we accept it as correct. I should take one which might correspond if there were two numbers, and if a duplicate came up I would cut the gunny to see if the number corresponded with the bill of lading, but if the number proved to be not one that I had a bill of lading for I would not take it without writing to the office or to the steamer. We presume that the mark on the gunny is the same as the lid, but we take the lid when there are two. Under certain circumstances I might, if I found it was the correct mark, though the number was different, sell the opium at once. We are so familiar with marks that, without corresponding numbers or even the ticket inside the chest corresponding, we might take it. I would take more precaution with marks which other people were liable to get. My impression was that the gunny bore the number 296, or it might have passed for 298. I saw the other number, 298. It did not strike me as extraordinary to see 298, 296 and 288 on the same chest. The number is usually put in two places on every chest. I might weigh the chest without looking at the lid. I would have laid aside a chest in such a case as the present on board the steamer, but if I had taken delivery of it I would not lose an opportunity of a sale.

To Mr. EAMES—If I had 10 chests coming and two were numbered 11, if one were missing I would take one number 11 for it.

The Court adjourned at six o'clock.

Feb. 22.

The Court resumed at ten o'clock.

JOHN MACKENZIE, sworn, said—I am master of the Rec. ship *Ariel*. I have had dealings with opium for about nine years. In receiving it I take the numbers from the gunny. I sometimes find duplicates—receive them almost every mail. I take the duplicate instead of any blank there may be. I received duplicates the mail before last. I have seen the gunny sometimes cut. It is not generally done. If there is a dispute arising about the number or mark on the gunny it may be done. I received all my opium by B/L per the *Madras*. I applied for one chest I could not get, but I had not a bill of lading for it. It was H. S. S. D. 288. I applied personally on board the str. to the 2nd officer. He told me he didn't have it, it was not on board. No investigation of the steamer's tally books was made.

To Mr. BIRD—In taking in opium we go by the numbers on the gunny, but in case of dispute it is cut to see what number is on the chest, so as to test the correctness of the number. We presume, in the first place, that the gunny is correct. If I were taking a particular mark I would take a chest bearing on the gunny two different numbers, if I wanted it to make up my number. I would not cut the gunny to see if there was a third number, but if I did and found another number I would still take the chest—I dont care what is on the lid. I applied for H. S. S. D. 288. I am the servant of Messrs. Framjee Hormusjee & Co., and I was informed by them that this chest was missing at Hongkong, and applied here for it on their behalf. I have heard that the chest was found on board the *Emily Jane*.

JAMES HENRY PURKISS PARKER, sworn, stated—I am 1st officer of the receiving ship *Wellington*. I have been so nearly 5 years, and had 3 years previous experience in opium. My entries in my cargo-book are copied from the bill of lading in ink, and as I receive cargo from the steamer I check each mark. A bamboo is also passed out with each chest. When my boat is loaded I go away with her, having previously compared with the officer of the steamer. The bamboos are a double check. There are no two men take delivery alike. I most decidedly take the numbers on the gunnies. I have received many duplicate numbers, and take them as such, marking them in the margin. This is the practice among the consignees in Shanghai. The P. & O. officers do not insist on having the gunnies cut. In most instances they make no note of the duplicate—they simply pass it for another number. That was

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done on Tuesday last from the *Malacca* with myself. We are not in the habit of cutting gunnies unless the chest is damaged by water or shows evidence of being plundered. In many cases when we cut the gunnies on selling, we find a different number. Sometimes there are three numbers,—two different numbers on the outside gunny and another on the lid—that is a frequent occurrence. Sometimes there are no numbers—the officer of the steamer told me the P. & O. sometimes numbered them with a tarbrush on the *Fort William*. I was called to see a chest on the *Emily Jane*, marked H. S. S. D. numbered on its flat 298, on the end 296, and on the lid 288. It is not the practice to reject a chest because the number on the lid is different from that on the gunny.

To Mr. Bird—It was during the Christmas holidays, before Christmas-day I went to the *Emily Jane*. I think about the 22nd. I am not positive, but it was towards the end of December. I received opium on the same voyage from the *Madras*. I was short two chests, of what mark I dont know, but I received them subsequently from Hongkong by the *Aden*. All my cargo is therefore accounted for. I dont go by the mark on the lid, but that on the gunny, and though two different ones be there and one on the lid not corresponding to my book, I would appropriate that chest. I would do so if one number on the gunny corresponded.

Constance Melano, sworn, stated—I am gunner on the *Emily Jane*. I assisted in Nov. last in taking in opium from the *Madras*. (Witness pointed out weights marked.) For every gross weight I am sure that there was a chest of opium. I weighed them myself. I am sure there was a chest for each weight marked there. I was not present when the chests marked H. S. S. D. were taken in. I first saw them two or three days after and counted them. There were altogether 9 chests and no more. I received number 297, not 296. They were calling out 297 twice and I put down the same weight twice, at 215 lbs. I did not write the mark against 294, only the twice 215 lbs of that mark. I made the entry the last day the chests of this mark came in. We received one chest that day. There were then two blank spaces in the column.

This closed the defendant's case.

Mr. Eames scarcely thought it necessary for him to take up much of the time of the Court with comments on the evidence. The officers of the *Madras* had testified as to the manner in which they kept their accounts, and the officers of the receiving ships as to how theirs were kept, and it would seem that even if it were possible that the chest might get into another boat—as might be inferred from the facetious remark of the third officer, who said how could they compare every five minutes with 20 people taking delivery?—even in that case, seeing that they were discharging into several, the officers should have discovered the mistake in their accounts. It was testified that these officers went over the account with the mate in the case of each boat load; they went over it again when the number called for by each bill of lading was completed; they went through the same process with the Customs officer, taking account of the boat loads with him, the amount to each ship, and the amount of the whole cargo. They should know then how much they had delievered. It was in fact impossible that the officers could get at the whole number of chests delivered without comparing their books, inasmuch as one was discharging at a certain gangway and the other at a different one; and notwithstanding all this amount of checking, they seemed to have gone over and over the deliveries and still failed to detect any error. At the same time, in doing this, the officers must necessarily be governed by the number of chests, without going into separate marks; and it appeared also that they did as the people receiving the cargo did, they went by the numbers on the gunnies—a custom which the Jury must be satisfied was the prevalent one. The numbers on the gunnies, it had been proved, were very irregular. How that occurred he did not know; probably the chests were first numbered, and the gunnies marked and put on at a different time. Doubtless his friend would try to impress on the Jury that the mark on the chest is the true one, and in one sense he would agree with him; but how could the officers of a ship be guided by the chest number when it was covered over by a gunny? and these covers, it had been testified, frequently differed from the numbers on the chest. Not only so, but there were frequently two numbers on the gunnies; and Mr. Hill even said there were sometimes two different numbers on the gunny, one on the chest, and a fourth differing from the other three on the ticket inside. As to the cutting of the gunnies, the second officer said they sometimes did that when it was insisted on—not, however, always to learn the number on the chest, it might be cut for many purposes, such as to ascertain if the chest has been robbed or broken. As to duplicates, there was no doubt that where a mark was the same, and the quantity of chests corresponded, these were taken without hesitation. It would be impossible to manage the opium business in any other way, and the practice was accepted both by the P. & O. and receiving ship people. It had even been done on the *Malacca*, as one witness said, within a short time since; and it could not be claimed, therefore, that defendant was wrong in receiving a chest marked with his mark, even if it was a duplicate. In this case it was at first supposed that there was a duplicate, but it was discovered that this was not the case, that Mr. Lindsay had received the chest as 296, that it was entered as a duplicate, but subsequently sold as No. 296. As for the quantity received by defendant, the books showed that he got 314 chests. In all there were four duplicate numbers and four blanks. Defendant alleged he did not receive an extra chest. The gunner stated that when he received the last chest, there were two blank spaces, which he cannot explain how he filled up. He (Mr. Eames) introduced other testimony to show that one chest of another opium was substituted for the missing chest, and probably was not weighed, when the lot was sold the first day. The Jury would see, taking the book as it stood, that defendant had got exactly 314 chests in all. He had already remarked that, taking it for granted that plaintiff's witnesses were correct in saying they had delivered one chest H. S. S. D. in excess, there was no proof that it came to defendant. It might have gone in another boat, and Mr. Lindsay, whose account was checked not only by the officers of the steamer but by the bamboos handed into the boat, had sworn positively, there were exactly the number of chests required by the bill of lading. Capt. Mackenzie did not seem to be quite clear about the chest 288 being found. He said he heard it was on the *Emily Jane*, but that was not evidence, many people knew that a claim had been made against that ship for a chest with that number on it, but with that number he (Mr. Eames) was sure the Jury would find the people taking the opium had nothing to do. However bad the practice might be of going by any one of several numbers on a gunny which might correspond, there was no other way of doing the business. The chest was first entered here as 298, but the Jury could see by the bag itself that it might well be taken in passing cargo for 296. As to what had become of chest 288—which was doubtless marked with that number on the gunny—no one knew; in all human probability there was such a chest somewhere, unless the number had been omitted altogether from the shipment. He would remind the Jury, and his Lordship would no doubt instruct them to the same effect, that the burden of proof lay upon the plaintiffs. It was for them to prove that defendant had received a chest too much, even if the Court should think defendant had entirely failed to disprove it. He hoped the Jury were convinced that the receiving officers of the opium ships had nothing to do with the lid numbers. And then, supposing an extra chest had been received on board the *Emily Jane*, he would like to ask what earthly motive there could be for receiving it, and for putting it down as part of the stock. When Mr. Barnes went on board, Captain Deslandes immediately showed the evidence on which he might be found guilty of receiving it. Such a proceeding would be more than wrong, it would be silly. At that time, too, Captain Deslandes had not even discovered the mistake about the duplicate; only when he called in his people and made enquiry did he find that the number on the end of the chest had led to its being received for 296. Before that he had supposed the chest a duplicate, and when Mr. Barnes first went to him he was quite astonished, and, for the moment, as much convinced as Mr. Barnes that he had got an extra chest. On subsequent examination of the book, however, he found two similar weights of 215 entered right after each other and said to himself there is some mistake here, the weight of one chest must have been marked twice. In conclusion, he might assume that they had disproved the chest required having been taken on board the defendant's ship. The Jury would at any rate see that Captain Deslandes knew nothing about it, nor could be blamed, if it did go on board, for not finding it now. There was no proof of negligence on his part; and with common carefulness on the part of the officers of the steamer, they would have discovered the error before they left the port. Chest 288 H S S D was claimed from them before they did leave. If the Jury should find that the chest did go on board the *Emily Jane*, they would not find that the captain was responsible for it. And in the pleadings, in this case, the plaintiffs must confine themselves to what they started with, that not only had there been a mistake in the number or mark of a chest, but that defendant had received 315 instead of 314.

Mr. Bird hoped his Lordship would agree with him that this was a case of an action for detinue, for the wrongful detention of a chest of opium delivered to defendant in excess of his number. He received it in error and should have re-delivered it, and it was for the non-delivery of it that plaintiffs sued him. The question as he had stated at the opening was entirely one of fact. It was simply whether or not one chest in excess of the right number had in some way been received by the defendant. Plaintiffs had undertaken to show that such a chest had been received on board in Hongkong, had been delivered from the ship to the servant of the defendant, and ultimately received on board his ship. That was what plaintiffs had to prove to make a *prima facie* case, and he thought they had succeeded in doing that much. It was perfectly true, as his friend had stated, that the *onus probandi* lay upon the plaintiffs. It did so upon the parties asserting a fact; and therefore when another allegation was raised in the defence, the onus of establishing it lay with the other side. The specific defence set up was that defendant was short one chest, or in other words that the chest bearing on it 298 296 was taken for the one number, and the one number on it for the other; and that there really was only one chest; that they said was how it came to pass for two chests, while it was only one, and made defendant's books bear to have received 10 when he received only 9. But defendant must satisfy the Jury that he did not receive also the proper 296, or that he received 298 in lieu of it, and the question was, had he satisfied them of that fact? Taking then the allegation on the part of defendant that he did not receive 296—for he must allege that; he had, undoubtedly, received two gunny bags bearing 298 on each; and if his complement was correct with these, he must have been short one, and that No. 296. On this point the only evidence adduced was that of the mate, Lindsay, and of the last witness called, the gunner. The one alleged that he did not receive 296 from the steamer, and the other that 297 was being called twice and he had not received 296. But, strange to say, the handwriting of both these witnesses was against them, and it was for the Jury to say whether the men were making a mistake, now speaking from memory, or that they should have gone and put down in writing, and at the moment, what was not the fact. Nothing could be clearer, taking defendant's own story. There was a number 296 entered as distinctly as writing could make it, and that was in a book kept as a check by Mr. Lindsay to mark off the chests as they passed out from the steamer. The entry in the gross weigh receipt book was also against that man's evidence. That book purported to be a record of opium as it was weighed and passed down below. 296 was there filled in with 215 marked against, and the presumption, therefore, was that 296 had been received. Was that explained away to the satisfaction of

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the Jury? The last witness said he had made the mistake there; but was it not a very strange mistake? His friend, in opening, made some observation as to the improbability of two numbers like 215 lbs. following each other in the weight-book. He (Mr. Bird) begged to draw the Jury's attention to the fact that four weights of 241 each followed each other higher up on the same page.

Mr. EAMES remarked that his observation was as to the improbability of two such exceptionally low numbers as 215 coming close together.

Mr. BIRD said the entry in the gross weight-book remained, with that on the mate's book, corroborative of the receipt of No. 296. Then they had, for the plaintiffs, the evidence of the 2nd and 3rd officers of the *Madras* as to the receipt on board that steamer of chest 296. The third officer, in his evidence said, "Of H. S. S. D., I tallied in numbers 296, 293, 290, 294, 298, 297, 295, and 291." Did not that read as if the chest came in just in that way, and these entries were thus stated as they appeared in the rough book. The very first chest received was 296. The third officer relieved the second at the after gangway and passed two chests in, entering them on the book belonging to that gangway. He stated—"Aft I tallied in two chests—292 and 298 of that mark"—H. S. S. D. There they had direct testimony, sworn to by a credible witness, that he received not only 296 but two of 298 at Hongkong. So that plaintiffs proved the chest was received on board. And these were also delivered at Shanghai. But, strange to say, this No. 296, unfortunately for plaintiff's case, was one that became particularised through not having been forthcoming because other opium was above it in the hold. The third officer distinctly swore, however, that it was subsequently found and passed aft between decks with 297, which had been reserved on account of damage—and that both were locked up in the after orlop. This testimony was corroborated by the second officer, who said that he delivered four chests of the same mark, numbers 292, 298, 296 and 297, Therefore, they found again this identical 296 particularised. The mate, Lindsay, himself stated that he took delivery at the fore gangway, where he received the chests which the third officer had deposed to handing to him, of the numbers just read. Here they had it that 296 was taken in by one officer at the fore gangway at Hongkong, and when it came to be delivered at Shanghai, it could not be found at the moment, and was passed aft, and another man thus came to deliver it here. The statements of the plaintiffs witnesses as to this were moreover corroborated by defendant's own books. And he would ask the Jury whether they would give preference to the testimony of men who spoke from memory, after a long interval, and whose handwriting was against them, or the two officers, who spoke positively to their books? It was a most extraordinary thing too, but defendant had never deigned to give any explanation as to how he was going to defend this case. His answer stated nothing, and plaintiffs were entirely ignorant on the matter. Was it much to expect that he should have explained that chest 298 was taken for 296? An explanation was distinctly asked by Mr. Barnes, who requested to know any number and of what mark defendant was short in his cargo. Then, turning to the gunny—evidence which defendant was bound to produce. He made no comment upon the appearance of the bag; he simply asked the Jurors to look at it, and to say whether the figures on one part were 298 or 296, and, if a 6, whether it was always a 6. He felt bound to state, however, and he did so without any hesitation, that he held the gunny to have been tampered with. Mr. Withers distinctly swore that, when he went on board, defendant held up the gunny for his examination, and that on both sides he found 298. The defendant, too, denied holding up the gunny at all. Mr. Withers stated: "Mr. Deslandes held up the gunny and showed that it also bore the mark 298 in two places; on the top and on one side. I saw the gunny, and the numbers were 298 as distinct as any marking might be. They were both unmistakeably 298; and on the lid, equally unmistakeably, the number was 288." There they had the statement of a credible witness who went on board the very afternoon in the end of November on which the enquiry was instituted, and he swore that was the then condition of the gunny. The Jury could see the state of the gunny now, and say if it answered to that description. The other witnesses who went to see the gunny saw it about a week after, the bag remaining meantime with the defendant; and it should be borne in mind that there was then every reason to suppose that a lawsuit would be brought about. He now come to the point as to the delivery to, and receipt by, the defendants, of two chests marked H S S D 298; and he submitted that the evidence in this respect was overwhelming in favour of the plaintiffs. They had the evidence of the *Madras*' officers, based upon their tally books. The third officer said he tallied in at the fore gangway of H S S D numbers 296, 293, 290, 294, 298, 297, 295, and 291, and at the aft 2 Nos. 292 and 298. It might appear strange that the duplicate was not noticed as being extra, when all were tallied in by the same man, but the Jury must consider that the officer was tallying in a great many things and that there were different books for the fore and aft gangways. They would see that two of 298 were tallied in—one at the fore and one at the aft gangways, and that in addition to the 296. On arrival at Shanghai, certain numbers were delivered to Mr. Lindsay, in the first place at the fore gangway, among which was 298, subsequently at the aft gangway, another 298 and in that very lot a 296. Plaintiffs could not say what had become of 296; they delivered it to defendant, and it appeared by his cargo-book and stock book that he received it. Of course the cargo-book did not show 10 chests; no man who went so far as they must assume defendant to have done, would allow that to appear, but there was an entry in pencil, sufficiently distinct, which might be rubbed out afterwards. His friend had laboured to give an explanation of this, but it had been beyond comprehension, and really amounted to none at all. It was very strange that two weights should be entered against 298 of all the numbers in the book, for that book showed that two chests had been weighed and the weights of 217 and 219 put opposite the entry of the chest 298. Why had they not put it against some other number? It was totally unexplained, and he believed it was so simply because it was inexplicable in consistency with the defendant's story; and the Jury might weigh the probabilities as to whether his inference or his friend's explanation were the more reasonable. There was a mass of other evidence, which he would not weary the Court by going into; it seemed to have little to do with the case, because the one point to bear in mind was, did this chest go to defendant and was his complement full without it, or not? Ross's evidence was worth less than nothing; it was based entirely upon hearsay, and the witness was not prepared to swear of his own knowledge what amount went to any one ship. The evidence of Knox was clearly in favour of the plaintiff, for in taking down the stock he found two chests of 298. The witness had no 296 down, but then he only took down six of H. S. S. D. The witness Hill gave his evidence in a peculiar way, for though in cross-examination he gave reasonable answers about what he would do in taking delivery in such a case, he afterwards turned round and seemed prepared to go any length. The same witness stated certain things as the custom among the opium people, but he would remind the Jury that a custom, to be binding, must be reasonable and universal, must be known by everybody. And would the Jury considerable it a reasonable custom where a man might blind himself to any evidence against certain property being his, and look entirely upon the evidence which might favour the assumption that it was and go solely by that. Here the gunny bag was opened and a third different number was found; and was it a reasonable custom that they should, without giving any explanation or making any enquiries, accept that opium as their own, it being a chest moreover to which they were not entitled under their bill of lading. Enquiries. they knew, had been set on foot on behalf of such a chest consigned to Framjee Hormusjee & Co. in Hongkong. All the witnesses were agreed that the number on the lid was more reliable than that on the gunny. It was most likely that the chest was correctly numbered first, that a large number of them were set up in rows; the bags numbered after, by different people; and that the wrong bag was put on the wrong chest. But this was beside the question; the Jury might consider whether the practice of taking the gunny bag number and not the chest one was reasonable; but the real question was whether one chest in excess of the number had or had not been delivered. Plaintiffs had proved right throughout how the mistake occurred; the chest was brought on board because it had a wrong number, and that it was the same as one already shipped was not noticed because it was tallied in at a different gangway. It went out similarly without any knowledge on the part of the officers that it was a duplicate. In considering the question he prayed the Jury to bear in mind also that the proof of the absence of 296 lay upon the defendant. It had been admitted that the whole cargo was received and the onus lay upon defendant of satisfying the Jury that 296 was not delivered. If the Jury had no doubt that it was delivered, it would be apparent to them that one of the 298 was in excess, for if the total was correct up to that number two more could not be called for. It seemed to him there never was a clearer case, as far as the evidence went, in favour of the plaintiffs.

His Lordship, in addressing the Jury, said there was no question of law in the case upon which he should instruct them; it was simply a question of fact to be judged from the evidence they had heard at such length. The facts had reduced themselves to a very small point. The number of chests to be considered should be limited to the 9 or 10 H. S. S. D.; and the only and real question was whether one chest of that mark beyond the number of 9 was delivered. He did not mean to go into the explanations given on both sides; it would be for the Jury to consider the credibility of the witnesses, and of the explanation given by the defendant claiming that he had received 9 and not 10.

Mr. EAMES reminded his Lordship that what plaintiffs claimed was that they had delivered 315 instead of 314 chests—that the excess was taken as being on the whole cargo and not on the 9 chests.

His Lordship did not know that any attempt had been made on defendant's part to show that this tenth chest went to fill up a gap in any other mark, and thought it would simplify the question to confine it to the 10 chests of mark H. S. S. D. If the Jury came to the conclusion that defendant received 10 chests H. S. S. D., they would find that he had received one chest too much. Defendant had not explained that this extra chest was taken to fill up a wanting number in any other mark, though it was explained that it was taken to pass for 296. But if the Jury found that defendant had received 10 of that mark, it followed that 296 was represented and one besides, and the verdict must be for the plaintiffs. The question of damages the Jury would assess at such rate as they might think reasonable.

The Jury then retired, and having in about ten minutes returned into Court,

Mr. J. P. BARNES, the foreman, said they had found a verdict for plaintiffs, with damages $50. It was understood also that the verdict carried with it the opium claimed or its value. Verdict entered accordingly, with costs.

CIVIL SUMMARY COURT.

Shanghai, Feb. 22.

Before R. A. MOWAT, Esq.

G. LINDAU *v.* E. A. FABRIS.

Claim for $66.75, *goods supplied.*

Defendant did not appear, and proof of service of summons having been taken,

Plaintiff, sworn, stated—I am a butcher, at No. 5 Szechuen road. Defendant has dealt with me from the 15th December to the 2nd February, and I have supplied him with all that he wanted, to the amount of my present claim. I have several times applied for payment, and defendant has admitted the correctness of the account and has given me orders on his compradore, but this man said he was not compradore. I then received a promissory note for the amount, payable on or before 2nd March next, but I do not accept it as payment, and will return it.

Judgment for the amount and costs.

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Feb. 24th.

H. Mills *v.* D. B. Jones.

Claim for $51.50, board and lodging.

Defendant had on Friday admitted $36.50 as due, but asked for an adjournment to enable him to produce a receipt for $15. He failed to show it, however, when the case was brought up to-day.

Judgment for the full amount, with costs, to be paid at the rate of $15 a month.

Feb. 26th.

A. E. Knights *v.* A. R. Tilby.

Claim for $30 rent of rooms for month of Feb.

Defendant denied the claim. He had not occupied nor used the rooms since the 31st January.

Plaintiff sworn, stated—I am pilot on the *Kiangloong*. Defendant occupied certain premises, No. 3 Yangkingpang, of which I am the landlord, on a monthly lease, at $30 per month, payable in advance. He entered in July last, since which time the tenancy continued. On the 25th Jan. I gave defendant notice to quit by the 1st of March. He vacated the rooms however on the 31st Jan., and I claim either a month's rent or a month's notice. I would have foregone my claim, but I had men put in to clean the rooms &c., and defendant re-entered on the 2nd Feb. and stopped them. He turned the people out, locked, the doors and took the keys away. The keys have since been handed over, but I had meanwhile to have the locks picked to gain admittance. On the 5th I called on Mr. Tilby to arrange the matter or get some explanation, and he declined to see me, so I sent in a demand for a month's rent, which he refused to pay. I then wrote him a request for the keys, which he refused to give up on the ground that he had a claim against me for $10. I subsequently, on 9th February, found the keys hanging in the door.

To Defendant—I admit that on the 25th you said you would not require the rooms after the 31st Jan. I made no demur, and accepted that as a sufficient notice. I wont say that you yourself entered the house after the 3rd. I know it only by report. I produce the letter making application for the keys, and crossed with a reply by you. On the 2nd February, previous to that note, I had people employed on the premises. Admittance was gained I believe by picking the lock. I can't say if the premises were opened by keys in possession of Mr. Millot, the agent for the property. I did purchase a screen of you for $10. When you presented the request for the money, I was absent. You were perfectly justified in applying for payment. After my return to Shanghai I refused to pay except through the Consul. I told your shroff you knew where to have your remedy if I owed you anything. As you re-entered the place again, I thought I would be as obstinate as you. You had to compel payment through the American Consul. Your rent was paid monthly in advance. I had not received the keys on the 7th, but I had possession of the premises on the 2nd. Your shroff never offered the keys to me in my house.

Defendant, sworn, stated—I agreed with Mr. Knights as he states, but I strongly deny that I ever entered the house after the 31st Jan. Nor did I or my servants interfere with any one put in by Mr. Knights to colour the rooms or otherwise. The keys, I admit I retained, but they were returned by the 5th or 7th, the day after he paid my claim for $10. I had them hung on the door, as plaintiff refused to receive them from my shroff, who offered them the day he paid the money. Some days were lost after Mr. Knight's return to Shanghai, as he would not pay me my bill. Mr. Knights had really possession from the 2nd, having got in by a second set of keys in the possession of M. Teillot, the agent for the superior. I sent a receipt for $10, asking payment, but it was kept and no notice taken of the claim, which caused the delay.

To Plaintiff—After I returned from the American Consulate I got a debit note from you for rent. The keys were at that time returned.

Defendant's shroff, called, said he took the keys and hung them in the door, which was then locked. This was on the 7th.

Mr. Millot's shroff said defendant left the house on the 31st, and when on the 2nd men came to do painting, defendant, in his office, told him that the men could not work as he had trouble with Mr. Knights. Witness informed his master, who told the men therefore to cease working and locked the door.

Defendant said, if he was wrong he was willing to pay till the 7th.

His Worship said the tenancy was a monthly one, and it appeared to him defendant was liable for a full month's rent.

Defendant thought he was not responsible beyond the 7th, when the keys were given up, and also urged reasons for not being called on to pay at the rate of more than $20.

His Worship however adhered to what he had already said, that defendant was liable for the month's rent, and saw no reason to alter the usual monthly rate at this time. Judgment for plaintiff with costs.

POLICE COURT.

Shanghai, Feb. 24th.

Before R. A. Mowat, Esq.

R. *v.* Wm. Ellis and John Parsons, *Italy.*

Refusal of duty.

Both admitted, but said the mate illused them, they having appeared as witnesses against him in an assault case tried on the 20th.

His Worship ordered the men to return to duty, to pay the costs of the summons and to reimburse the captain for expense incurred for substitutes. They had their remedy against the mate, but not by refusing to do the work of the ship.

Feb. 26th.

R. *v.* J. Sloane, *Italy.*

Assa lt.

John Parsons complainant, sworn, stated —I am an A. B. On or about Sept. 24th I was forward on the port side of the house. We were sending up stunsail gear when defendant, the mate, told me to pull on one part of the tack, putting the part in my hand; it was dark; I pulled and he told me I had got the wrong rope. He seized me by the hair, held me down to the deck and kicked me, saying you son of a ——, if you don't know anything I'll knock it into you. He kicked me in the right eye and cut it a little. I must have had three or four kicks, as I was sore about the back next day. He then let me get up, and I went away without saying anything to him. I have since had a great deal of abuse and an occasional clout, but nothing to leave a mark.

Defendant said none of the lads in his watch knew one rope from another, and vexed him. He gave complainant a good shaking, and drove him up against a water closet by which he got a bruise, but he had never kicked nor abused him.

Complainant again said he was kicked. One witness, an apprentice, saw the affair but was frightened and ran away.

It appearing that the mate was to be discharged from the ship, his Worship reserved judgment till this was done.

U. S. CONSULATE COURT.

Hongkong, 20th February.

Before D. B. Bailey, Esq., U. S. Consul.
Captain T. E. Nichols, U. S. N.
Lt. Comdr. H. F. Picking, U. S. N.
Captain Adlam, R. N.
Captain Toppin, s.s. *Douglas.*

The Court was held to enquire into the loss of the steamer *Suwonada.*

A Special Admiralty Chart, corrected to May 1870, was laid on the table.

The proceedings were opened by the President reading a petition from Captain Clark to the Board, and documentary evidence consisting of the protest extended at Foochow, and the official report of Captain H. H. Wallace, of the *Ashuelot*, was also read to the Court, together with the survey report on the rock by the officers of that ship.

The first witness, Mr. O. Wilson, late chief officer of the *Suwonada*, was then called, and, being duly sworn, stated that the steamer sailed from Hongkong fully equipped and manned for the voyage she was about to undertake; and that she proceeded upon her voyage in the usual way. In reply to a question from Captain Toppin whether the ship when under the command of Capt. Jayne had been through Haitan Straits, he stated that the Log Book recorded that she had made the passage through when drawing 18½ feet of water; and further enquiry from the Court elicited the fact that she was drawing but 13 feet 6 inches when leaving Hongkong upon her last voyage. Witness was asked by Capt. Nichols to state the rise and fall of the tide in the Haitan Straits, and replied that it was 16 feet. Being questioned as to his experience on the coast, he stated that he had passed through the Haitan Straits many times during the past eight years and never heard of a rock existing in that channel. The witness gave details concerning the occurrence, confirmatory in every respect of those already published, especially in regard to the good order and discipline of both crew and passengers, and the threatened attack by the piratical boats.

Charles McLean, chief engineer, was then called, and deposed that in his department the vessel was fully equipped and in order. He also testified that after the accident he found it impossible to keep the leak under with all the steam pumps, including the bilge injection. The ship was running 13 knots when she struck. He did not think that any further steps could have been taken by Captain Clark with a view to saving the ship; and that every effort was made to save life and property.

Pedro Quivedero, quartermaster, stated that at the time the ship struck, he was heaving the lead, and could get no bottom at 8 fathoms, and the ship seemed to be steering her usual course.

Capt. Toppin here expressed an opinion that the rock must be a boulder, possibly caused by some recent earthquake, as he had gone through that passage for the last ten years, and never had any impression that there was such a rock. It was in the direct course he always took.

Captain Clark was then asked by the Court whether he had any remarks to offer, and stated that he was quite willing to leave the matter in the hands of the Court, with the evidence which had been given, to which he had nothing further to add.

The Court was then cleared; and has since given the following decision.

The Court after hearing all the evidence produced, and having carefully and maturely considered the same, is of the opinion that the steam-ship *Suwonada* was in good seagoing condition, well found in boats, anchors and cables, with five good pumps connected with the engine, and fully manned; that the ship was pursuing the usual route of steamers (through Haitan Straits) bound up the Coast during the prevailing N.E. monsoon; that the rock upon which she struck is not laid down in the latest published charts, and its existence was not known to shipmasters and others navigating the Haitan Straits; that the ship was steering a mid-channel course, with a careful leadsman in the chains (who could get no bottom with 8 fathoms of line) when she struck; that subsequent researches proved the rock to be lying almost directly in mid-channel in its narrowest part, and that after the accident Captain Clark, his officers and crew, did everything that was possible to be done for the preservation of the ship, cargo, and the lives of those on board, and that order and discipline were preserved on board until the last moment. In conclusion, the Court, in exonerating Arthur Hamilton Clark, late commander of the steamer *Suwonada*, from all blame for the unfortunate loss of said vessel, would express the opinion that his conduct under the circumstances was that of a thorough seaman, a cool, brave and judicious commander, and that to the exercise of these qualities are the survivors indebted for their lives.—*Daily Press.*

Amusements.

THE PAPER HUNT.

On Saturday was held the final Paper Hunt of the season—the handicap, which is to come off during this week, being really a steeple-chase. The meet had been announced for No. 11, but the real start was from the neighborhood of Sinza, across the Stone Bridge. The foxes had chosen some capital country on the Hongkew side, and the run, though rather long, was universally voted a good one. Mr. Low, on Aleppo, was the first to pass the foxes; but as the prizes were "Consolations" for previous non-winners, Mr. Harvie was allotted the heavy weight, and Mr. Hasham the light weight prize.

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THE GUN CLUB:

There was only a moderate attendance of members on the base ball ground on Monday afternoon. The light was very bad, and the shooting consequently not quite so good as we have sometimes seen. The following sweepstakes were shot off:

24 yards,	3 birds,	won by	Mr.			Beveridge.
,, ,,	3	,,	,,	,,	,,	Lethbridge.
,, ,,	5	,,	,,	,,	,,	Chambers.
,, ,,	3	,,	,,	,,	,,	Hawtrey.
,, ,,	3	,,	,,	,,	,,	Meyers.

The last sweep, 2 traps 22 yards rise, right and left shot, had to be cancelled, as none of the competitors could succeed in making the double shot. The spectators, including a yelping pointer, appeared to take great interest in the sport.

S. V. C. PARADE.

The Volunteer parade last Friday was rather thinly attended—the Rifles turning out only enough to form one company of 20 files; the Miholoongs mustered in about equal number, and the Artillery manned one gun. People never can be punctual in Shanghai; so, although the parade was called an hour later than usual, it was past 4 before the order was given to fall in. After the usual preliminaries, the Force was then marched up the Maloo, doing a little company drill on the way—out to the Cross-road. Some skirmishing drill was here very fairly gone through, in the fields; and after about an hour's exercise, line was formed, a volley fired and the homeward march begun. The Bund was reached about 6, and after a little more practice in volley firing, the men were dismissed.

We have said the muster was rather a thin one; probably because the stimulus of a sham fight, which brought men out last time, was lacking. Not a few seemed to prefer looking on from outside; some on ponies, which evidently understood that their masters should have been in the ranks—and strove to place them there. Notably one gallant sergeant, who is famous for his absence from drill, was seen galloping, hatless, past; and was finally deposited on the Race-course, amid the cries of his sympathising comrades.

A General Parade of the Volunteers is called for to-morrow, at noon, with a view, we believe, to a more complete sham fight than we have yet had. The Marines and Blue Jackets from the *Juno* and *Curlew* are to join in the excursion; and will, we hear, form the attacking force. The programme has not yet been made public; but we hear of a probable attack by boats coming down the Soochow Creek, which the Volunteers will be called on to repel—and of peace being made over substantial refreshment, in the end.

THEATRICALS AT PEKING.

On Monday, Feb. 12, an entertainment was given by M. le Comte de Rochechouart, in his reception rooms, to the foreign society of Peking, at which the members of the British Legation played the two farces entitled "He's a Lunatic" and "Ici on parle français."

The ladies of Peking and the non-acting guests, in number about 30, sat down at 7 o'clock to a sumptuous dinner. At 8.30 the doors of the theatre were thrown open, and the proceedings commenced with a very spirited prologue by Mr. James Dundas Crawford, containing many amusing local allusions. It was read by Mr. W. C. Hillier, and after it the curtain rose on

"HE'S A LUNATIC."

Dramatis Personæ.

March Hare (a young artist)—Graham Sandford, Esq.
Sir Guy Trotter (K. C. B.)—W. R. Carles, Esq.
Ruggles (a house breaker)—A. E. Pirkis, Esq.
Arabella Hanwood (a widow)—G. Brown, Esq.
Halter (her maid)—J. D. Crawford, Esq.

Between the two pieces about half-an-hour elapsed, during which interval Mr. O'Brien, of the Chinese College, gave some selections from "Il Barbiere di Seviglia" on the piano, with his usual brilliant execution; and at the expiration of that time commenced the well known farce

ICI ON PARLE FRANCAIS.

Dram. Pers.

Mr. Spriggins, W. R. Carles, Esq.
Major Regulus Rattan, R. Mansfield, Esq.
Victor Dubois, Hon. T. G. Grosvenor.
Mrs. Spriggins, J. W. Carrall, Esq., (of Imp. Customs.)
Angelina (her daughter,) G. Brown, Esq.
Julia (wife of Maj. Rattan,) W. S. Ayrton, Esq.
Anna Maria (maid of all work,) J. D. Crawford, Esq.

The parts were sustained throughout with great spirit, the ladies dresses and acting exciting great applause. At the close of the proceedings, after the departure of the ladies, a supper was provided for the Corps Dramatique. Among the distinguished guests, we observed Mr. and Mrs. Wade, H. E. General Vlangaly, Hon. F. Low, M. Annecke, Mr. and Mrs. Hart, Mr. and Mrs. Bismarck, Mr. and Mrs. McLeavy Brown, Mr. and Mrs. A. E Pirkis, the Revd. and Mrs. Edkins, Dr. and Mrs. Dudgeon and numerous others, making up in all an audience of about 60 persons.

Much of the success of the performance was due to the exertions and unflagging energy of Mr. McLeavy Brown, in his capacity of stage manager.

Miscellaneous.

LOSS OF THE "CHUKIANG."

(Daily Press.)

We regret that the fears for the above vessel prove to be only too well founded. She was totally lost on Reef Island on the 6th February, and the captain, officers and passengers reached Amoy in a junk. The following interesting account of the matter has been furnished by one of the officers on board:—The morning of Tuesday, February 6th, broke thick and misty with a very nasty sleet falling. At 8 a.m. land was observed on the starboard bow, when the captain gave orders to keep off another point. Shortly after the weather cleared, but soon became thicker than ever. About 9.30 a great mass was observed to the starboard bow, and at the same time it was reported that the steering gear had broken. The engines were at this time going astern; and shortly after the order was given to go ahead again, when land was observed looming ahead. The engines were again reversed without delay, but before the way could be fully checked, the ship struck stem on, and also on the starboard bilge, and healed over to the port side. The engines were stopped; and now, as if to show our destruction was complete, the veil of fog slowly lifted, showing great high rocks on three sides of us. We saw at once we could not get the ship off, so set to work to clear the boats, and land the Chinese passengers, which we succeeded in doing. The natives had discovered us by this time, and were collected on the rocks, and as we landed the passengers took their clothes from them. The captain now determined to send and look for assistance. Accordingly the gig was despatched in charge of the second officer, the coasting pilot, and Mr. H. O. Brown, of the Imperial Customs, who was a passenger on board, accompanied them in search of a mandarin to state the position of the ship. This duty performed, our attention was again directed to the ship, and we found the wire steering rope running from aft to the bridge, broken on the port side by the main-rigging. The tide by this time was ebbing fast. I went with the Captain in the pinnace to survey the ship, and ascertain if possible the damage. We found the stem broken from the eight foot mark, and turned outwards to the starboard side. There was a great hole also on the starboard side, a little forward of the main rigging, running down towards the keel, and another one on the port side, much larger, and running the same direction. The bags of rice were protruding from the holds, and judging from the length of the breaks, tried with a boat hook, I should think she was cut through the bottom from port to starboard upwards to the water line. We found it was impossible to do anything for her, but remained by till 5 p.m. that evening, when it was deemed advisable to leave before dark, as the natives ashore, also a number of fishing boats, were waiting for the cover of darkness to board, and we had no weapons or firearms fit to defend ourselves with. About that hour we took to the boats and pulled towards the Haitan Straits. The fog had come down again during the afternoon, and as it very soon became dark, we made a line fast to the three boats to prevent losing one another in the darkness, when about 2 o'clock in the morning a sandy bottom was found. We stuck the masts belonging to the boats in the sand, and made fast alongside of each other, to wait for daylight; and now, as if to augment our miserable condition, the rain fell heavily and the wind increased. The tide also was ebbing, and the boats got aground. It took us sometime to get them afloat again and re-moor them. That done, we sat down to sigh for daylight, when as the flood began to make the wind and rain increased, and we had again to shift our moorings, and get under the lee of a rock. Never was daylight looked for more anxiously, and when it did break we saw a junk lying at anchor about a mile and a half away. It was at once resolved to board her, which we did. The men in charge were all asleep, and were very much terrified to find us in possession, but were very soon reassured, and agreed to take us down to Pinghai, and while on board they offered us such food as they had themselves. At Pinghai, a junk was chartered to take us to Amoy, and after getting on board, we found her laden with salt, and leaking very badly. We were four days on board this junk, and all of us Europeans took our turn at the pumps and bailed with buckets to keep her afloat. We had to put into Chinchoo harbour from stress of weather, and coming out again, the seas were breaking over us to that extent that the crew belonging to her, could hardly be induced to proceed. On Sunday morning, the 11th February, we sighted a steamer, which turned out to be the *Sedan*, bound north. She remained by us three or four hours, and the Captain wanted us to come on board and proceed on to Shanghai, but being close to the entrance of Amoy, we thought it better to go in there. We reached Amoy on Sunday evening about four or five o'clock, whence we were brought on to Hongkong by the steamship *Formosa*, at the hands of whose captain and officers we received every attention. During the time we were in the hands of the Chinese we received every kindness it was in their power to render us, and their efforts were the more praiseworthy since their means were evidently very limited. On reaching Amoy, the poor man who was captain and owner of the junk, told me that upwards of 200 piculs of his cargo had been pumped out, and as he was bound for Wamhi, Nam-ki Island, it would be nearly light before he reached his destination.

We hear that the coolie traffic in Macao is very dull, owing to the very high prices demanded by holders, the quotations being $57 per *caput* laid down in the barracoon. The Peruvian ship *Luisa Canevaro*, with 729 coolies, is the only departure since the last fortnight. On the berth there are two Peruvian ships, the *Rosalia* and the *America*, the former for Peru and the latter for Callao. As there is not sufficient cargo for these two ships, demurrage will have to be paid very shortly. One more ship was chartered, but the Charter-Party has since been cancelled, owing to the non-arrival of the long-expected supply from the interior.—*Advertiser.*

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Shanghai Tea, Silk, Cotton and Opium Returns for Season Commencing June 1, 1871.

From Imperial Maritime Customs.

TEA

TO GREAT BRITAIN.

Ship.	Cleared.	Destination.	Congou.	Dust.	Leaf.	Total Black.	Japan.	Dust.	Young Hyson.	Hyson.	Twankay.	Imperial.	Gunpowder.	Total Green.
Total as per last Report			417,609.58	63.26	138.59	417,811.43	6,507.30½	6.16	17,405.94½	5,513.10	701.13½	4,615.77½	23,970.32½	52,481.51½
Sarpedon	Feb. 12	London	..	..	..	..	..	..	40.53½	54.97	..	..	200.00	295.50½
Alphee	„ 22	Do.	..	..	..	..	..	..	119.90	212.00	..	21.00	68.00	..
			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Total	417,609.58	63.26	138.59	417,811.43	6,507.30½	6.16	17,566.38	5,780.07	701.13½	4,636.77½	24,238.32½	52,777.02½

TO UNITED STATES.

Ship.	Cleared.	Destination.	Congou.	Souchong.	Oolung.	Total Black.	Japan Unclassed.	Young Hyson.	Hyson.	Hyson Skin.	Twankay.	Imperial.	Gunpowder.	Total Green.
Total as per last Report			13,179.22	10.00	364.35	13,522.52	2,057.46	73,910.62½	8,723.03	20.23½	5,185.86½	18,769.02	35,222.11½	136,955.37½
New York	Feb. 17	New York	..	..	..	..	..	1.92	20.96	..	0.31	0.60	1.30	29.09
			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Total	13,179.22	10.00	364.35	13,522.52	2,057.46	73,912.54½	8,743.99	20.23½	5,185.89½	18,769.62	35,223.41½	136,984.46½

TO HONGKONG AND COAST PORTS.

Ship.	Cleared.	Destination.	Congou.	Dust.	Brick.	Total Black.	Unclassed.	Young Hyson.	Hyson.	Leaf.	Twankay.	Imperial.	Gunpowder.	Total Green
Total as per last Report			17,667.66	..	58,263.97	75,931.63	1.50	129.53½	2,620.36	0.06	1.43	2.87½	40.16	2,794.02½
Bombay	Feb. 15	Hongkong	..	..	..	..	..	..	7.34	..	..	..	..	7.34
Alphee	„ 22	Do.	18.70	..	..	18.70	..	..	46.47½	..	..	..	..	46.47½
			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Total	17,686.36	..	58,263.97	75,950.33	1.50	129.53½	2,674.17½	0.06	1.43	2.87½	40.16	2,847.84

SILK.

	To Great Britain.	To Marseilles and Continent.	To America.	To Hongkong, Suez, Brindisi & Trieste.	Total China.	Japan Transhipped.	Grand Total.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales
Total as per last Report	33,112	9,574	2,519	1,954	47,159	954	48,113
Subsequent Shipments	254	66	98	53	471	44	515
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	33,366	9,640	2,617	2,007	47,630	998	48,628

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COTTON.

Ship.	Cleared.	Hongkong. Export	Hongkong. Re-export.	Hongkong. Tran-shipped.	Coast & Riverine Ports. Export.	Coast & Riverine Ports. Re-export.	Coast & Riverine Ports. Tran-shipped.	Japan. Export.	Japan. Re-export.	Japan. Tran-shipped.	Total. Piculs.
Total as per last Report		19,376.23	..	11,462.01	273,919.30	303.00	109.68	1,420.40	77.00	..	306,631.62
Otago	Feb. 16	60.00	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	60.00
Moyune	" 21	..	..	..	328.74	..	..	..	..	..	328.74
Glengyle	" 14	857.67	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	857.67
Sunfoo	" 17	264.00	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	264.00
Sedan	" 16	240.00	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	240.00
Peiho	" 20	..	..	..	24.00	..	..	..	..	..	24 00
Fusi-Yama	" 24	..	..	..	1,035.70	..	..	..	..	..	1,035.70
Aiphee	" 22	1,022.19	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,022.19
New York	" 17	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	60.00	..	60.00
Chinkeang	" 24	..	..	..	310.00	..	..	..	..	..	310.00
		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total		21,820.00	..	11,462.01	275,617.74	303.00	109.68	1,420.40	137.00	..	310,813.92

OPIUM.

OPIUM RETURN FOR WEEK ENDED 24TH FEBRUARY, 1872.

IMPORTED.

	Malwa. Chests.	Malwa. Weight.	Patna. Chests.	Patna. Weight.	Benares. Chests.	Benares. Weight.	Persian. Chests.	Persian. Weight.
Imported and stored on board Receiving Vessels	1227½	1227.50	355	426.00	120	144.00	..	..
Imported and transhipped for re-exportation without being stored on board Receiving Vessels or landed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Imported direct to the shore	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	1227½	1227.50	355	426.00	120	144.00	..	..
Landed from Receiving Vessels and intended chiefly for Local consumption and Imported direct to the Shore	40	40.00	137	164.40	35	42.00	..	..

RE-EXPORTED.

Description.	Chinkiang. Chts.	Chinkiang. Wght.	Kiukiang. Chts.	Kiukiang. Wght.	Hankow. Chts.	Hankow. Wghts.	Chefoo. Chts.	Chefoo. Wght.	Tientsin. Chts.	Tientsin. Wght.	Newchwang. Chts.	Newchwang. Wght.	Ningpo. Chts.	Ningpo. Wght.	Kelung. Chts.	Kelung. Wght.	Hongkong. Chts.	Hongkong. Wght.	Total. Chts.	Total. Wght.
Malwa	305	305.00	55	55.00	65	65 00	..	..	..	..	..	..	98½	98.50	..	..	..	..	523½	523.50
Patna	22	26.40	1	1.20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	14.40	..	..	..	..	35	42.00
Benares	3	3.60	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3.40	..	..	..	..	6	7.20
Persian	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	330	335.00	56	56.20	65	65.00	..	..	..	..	..	..	113½	116.50	..	..	..	..	564½	572.70

FREIGHTS

FROM SHANGHAI DURING THE PAST FORTNIGHT.

Name of Vessel.	Flag.	Rig.	Tons.	Voyage.	Lay Days.	Rates.	Remarks.
Oscar Mooyer	German	Barque	340	Monthly Charter, 6 a 8 months	—	$ 2,260.00	Per month.
Star of the North	British	Ship	662	Chinkiang to Whampoa	20	0.66	Per picul.
Carmarthenshire	"	"	812	Shanghai to Swatow	22	0.80	"
Madawaska	American	Schooner	511	" "	15	0.81	"
Harmon	British	Barque	345	" "	16	0.56	"
Ed. James	American	"	502	" to Whampoa	18	0.54½	"
Spray	"	Schooner	256	To Swatow and back	25	0.80	"
Moneyneck	"	Barque	280	Monthly Charter, 4 months	—	1 970.00	Per month.
Gordon Castle	British	Steamer	1,280	Chinkiang to Whampoa	15	Tls. 0.55	Per picul.
Michael Angelo	"	Ship	1,174	" "	30	$ 0.65	"

IMPORTS—SUNDRIES.

SHANGHAI, 29TH FEBRUARY, 1872.

No. 251 was issued on the 22nd instant for the French mail leaving on the morning of the 24th—having been detained one day by an accident to machinery. The English mail of the 12th January arrived yesterday. Telegraphic communication by Submarine line was re-opened on the 23rd. A reduction of rates on and after the 1st of March is announced—the charges being assimilated to those of the Northern line, viz., 20 words for $ 21.50. This gives the Great Northern another chance to reduce—when the price comes to 20 words for $ 5, there will be a considerable business. The last political telegram is dated the 27th, and brings news of the reference of the indirect "Alabama" claims to Geneva. The particulars of the Import market are fully given below. Stocks seem to accumulate, and the dealers don't speak encouragingly of the prospects of the Northern markets for the spring trade. Dewhurst's 8¼ lb. Grey Shirtings are quoted Tls. 1.90 *a* 1.93 against Tls. 2.13 *a* 2.15 on 1st March last year, but at that period Dewhurst's Eagles were scarce. This time last year we commented on the general dullness of trade and remarked that late arrivals had added so considerably to our stocks that dealers were holding aloof, using the circumstance to endeavour to force down prices. The stock of Grey Shirtings was then 836,000 pieces, now it is 2,972,000 pieces.

The *Appin* and *Manchu* steamers are advertised to leave for Tientsin on Sunday morning, the 3rd March; last year, the first steamer left on the 1st March, but we remarked that their cargoes were chiefly rice and general and not many manufactured goods. The mail steamer *Sunda* was obliged to leave the anchorage yesterday because of the insufficient water on the bar at Woosung. We understand that no dredger has as yet been ordered, and that as people assert the bar has not shallowed during the past ten years, there is no hurry. These thinkers, however, forget that the trade and the public have demanded and obtained a finer class of boats—these vessels draw more water, and though the bar may not have shallowed, the vessels have increased in draught, and therefore the bar must be dredged. There is an opinion put forth, if credited we know not, that difficulties may arise by dredging the bar, that the currents and counter-currents are such that the removal of the one bar might involve the formation of others even more dangerous and troublesome. We don't believe that story, but if it be more than imaginary, and the bar must not be dredged, then a railway must be made. The railway might be made for about Tls. 150,000 from Woosung to Hong-kew, and the bridge might follow later—a bridge accommodating the railway traffic and giving a free foot-bridge also. The *Glaucus*, str., leaves to-day.

The arrivals consist in—on the 24th, *Madawaska*, from Puget Sound; 25th, *Carmarthenshire*, from London; 27th, the *Surprise*, from New York.

The departures—*Glaucus*, str., for London.

The weather has been variable, sometimes overcast and raw, at others, sunny, and, for the season, warm. The thermometer for past seven days has averaged—min. 37 and max. 48.

SHARES have been more freely dealt in and prices have generally advanced. The settlement of 31st March still looms in the future, but we believe many of the difficulties have been met and arranged, so that the most serious apprehensions have been allayed, and we hope the worst is over; it must not, however, be overlooked that about the end of March arrangements for the more important and legitimate business of the place occupy the thoughts and attention of merchants, and funds which, during a dull time have been playing a part on the share market, will be withdrawn for Tea and Silk; this withdrawal will necessitate sales. Sales in the present condition of the market will result in a decline in prices; a decline in prices will prolong the difficulties, prolonged difficulties result in disaster. S. S. N. Company are quoted Tls. 155, cash; Scrip issued at Tls. 20, and to be converted into stock, is now Tls. 27. Union Steam Navigation Company, Tls. 86, cash; Hongkong and Shanghai Banks, Old, $62 per cent prem., New, $59 per cent prem.; Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf, Tls. 155, ex dividend, cash; Yangtsze Insurance Company, Tls. 835; Sailors' Home Debentures, Tls. 100. The Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Company declared a dividend at the rate of 12 per cent per annum, and a bonus to Shareholders in the old Company of Tls. 1.50 per share, with a return of 20 per cent of the net profits to contributing Shareholders. We hear that the applications for shares in the Shanghai and Pootung Foundry and Engineering Company very largely exceeded the number at disposal for distribution.

LAND AND HOUSES.—The house and grounds known as "Au Chalet" have been sold for Tls. 1,800. The ground, which is planted, consists of about 8 mow; and the dwelling house is a small bungalow.

PIECE GOODS.—On the 22nd we advised the opening of our piece goods market, and gave an epitome of the business done during the week. We think it well, however, to condense the business of the past fortnight in our present issue.

It is scarcely worth while alluding to our news from the outports, as it has been so devoid of interest during the fortnight.

At Tientsin business had not been fairly resumed by last advices, and the Northern dealers here—from whom we derive our information—still speak very despondingly of their spring prospects. Stocks in the North, however, are supposed to be light, and therein chiefly lies the importers' hope of being able to work off the immense quantities of grey goods that have steadily accumulated on their hands.

The Riverine Customers on the other hand are more hopeful, and their confidence in the future will be shaken only by the tone of our market, or by some unforeseen calamity.

The Provinces which draw their supplies hence via the Yangtsze route have been comparatively free from civil turmoil and have been more or less enriched by a fairly good harvest during the year just gone; consequently the foreigner, not unreasonably, indulges in the hope that his trade will to some extent be benefited thereby as the season advances. At Hankow, firmness on the part of holders and the absence of country demand were, on 23rd instant, the assigned causes of a limited trade in imports.

The s.s. *Manchu* and *Appin* are advertised to leave for the north on the morning of 3rd instant. So far as was can learn Piece Goods will form a small proportion of their freight, although the rate (Tls. 8 per ton of 40 feet) is under what the dealers at one time expected.

GREY SHIRTINGS.—Our issue of the 22nd instant reported the opening of the market on the 17th at Tls. 1.9.0/9.3 per piece for fair to best common Chops of 8¼lb. Cloth, Tls. 1.7.4/7.5 per piece for 7lbs. and Tls. 2.7.0 per piece for the heavier descriptions; and, with the exception of 9.10/12 lb. goods, which continue scarce, sales at or about these rates have been of daily occurrence ever since. Transactions in the 8¼lb. weights have been nearly all for immediate clearance, the dealers—having a regard to the heavy stock now here, and the declining tendency of the Manchester market, and fearing that lower rates may soon rule,—have been averse to operating beyond what they know they can get rid of at once without loss. Dewhurst's Eagles have been in small request and the last sale noted (5000 pieces resold by a native *a* Tls. 1.9.6/9.7 per piece cash) indicates weakness and a downward bias. The value of ordinary to best common Chop 7lbs. Grey Shirtings has been well sustained, and a large share of the settlements since the market opened has consisted of this Cloth. Dewhurst's Eagle of this weight has been less wanted and has commanded poor prices in comparison with reputed inferior chops. In heavy Shirtings only a limited trade is reported. They have, however, been in tolerably good request, and although prices have ruled somewhat irregularly, yesterday's auction sales of damages shew an improvement. Ordinary Chop 9¾lb., damaged, brought Tls. 2.8.0 *a* 2.8.4 per piece, and the biddings for them were spirited. Sales of all weights from 13th to 27th instant estimated at 120,000 pieces.

WHITE SHIRTINGS.—We cannot here do better than repeat our remarks of 21st instant. "The fitful enquiry experienced throughout "the holidays has become more constant and regular, and has led to business at the following rates, viz., for 56 R. Tls. 1.85 *a* 88 per piece, "for 60 R. Tls. 1.92 *a* 98 per piece, for 64 R. Tls. 2.07 *a* 10 per piece, and for 66 R. Tls. 2.17 *a* 20 per piece." A favourite chop of 64 Reed has since been sold at Tls. 2.25 per piece, and we understand the same cloth is now held for Tls. 2.30 per piece by the importer. Sales—25,000 pieces.

T-CLOTHS.—The enquiry has embraced every description and weight—the Mexican qualities of 6 *a* 7-lbs. being most in favor; but the supply of the former is low, and the holders of the latter have generally been firm for higher rates, hence probably a smaller business than would otherwise have taken place. A few 8-lb. T-Cloths have changed hands at figures ranging between Tls. 1.80 *a* 1.90 per piece. At auction yesterday, an ordinary cloth—sea-damaged—was sold for Tls. 1.85 *a* 1.86 per piece. Sales of all weights 65,000 pieces.

DRILLS.—This import maintains its position and considerable sales of English and Dutch manufacture have been effected during the fortnight. A lot of about 7,000 *a* 8,000 pieces ordinary Dutch Drills have been taken for Japan at Tls. 2.97½ *a* 3.00 per piece. The ruling rates for Dutch and English lately have been Tls. 2.95 *a* 3.12 per piece, and Tls. 3.03 *a* 3.12 per piece respectively. In American cloths nothing has transpired. Total sales 30,000 pieces.

JEANS.—The settlements have been trifling, but no perceptible change in value has been established. Sales—5,000 pieces.

SHEETINGS.—Without sales to guide us, our quotations for English Sheetings, viz., Tls. 3.25 *a* 3.30 per piece, must be regarded as nominal. For American Cloth "to arrive" Tls. 3.90 per piece has been offered and refused.

FANCY COTTONS call for little remark.—800 pieces *Damasks*, 1,500 pieces *Chintzes*, 1,100 pieces *Velvets*, 2,000 pieces *Gentian Shirtings*, 3,500 pieces *Muslins*, 1,000 pieces *Dyed Brocades*, and 500 pieces best *Turkey Red Shirtings* at our quotations comprise nearly all that has been done in this branch of our trade since 14th instant.

WOOLLENS.—The market for almost every description of Woollen goods is strengthening daily. *Camlets*, *Spanish Stripes*, *Figured Orleans* and *Scarlet Long Ells* have been wanted, and the dealers have been slowly responding to the enhanced ideas of holders. The following may be taken as the business of the fortnight, and as an index of the present state of the market.

CAMLETS, common (with all faults) to best 6,500 pieces at Tls. 11.50 *a* 15.00 per piece. A sale of 400 pieces Camlets, good assortment, was made yesterday afternoon at Tls. 15.40 per piece.

LONG ELLS C P H Scarlet 600 pieces at Tls. 6.40 per piece.

Assorted 1,000 pieces at Tls. 5.60 per piece,—not Tls. 5.65 per piece as reported on 22nd instant.

SPANISH STRIPES.—Various chops 3,500 pieces at Tls. 0.56 *a* 0.64 per yard.

FIGURED ORLEANS 11,000 pieces at Tls. 3.85 *a* 4.40 per piece, the latter figure for diagonal patterns.

MEDIUM CLOTHS 420 pieces at Tls. 0.88 *a* 1.10 per yard.

UNION CRAPE LASTINGS 700 pieces at Tls. 4.50 *a* 4 65 per piece.

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STRAITS PRODUCE & SUGAR.—SUGAR.—During the past week, buyers have shown a desire to operate, which has resulted in holders of Canton White and Brown obtaining an advance of 3 to 4 mace per picul. A few shipments of Swatow new Sugar have arrived to a profitable market.

DYEWOODS, PEPPER and TIN, unchanged.

METALS.—LEAD.—But a small demand has prevailed since the last report; holders are less firm, L. B. offering at Tls. 4.85.

IRON.—The week's settlements amount to 15,000 bundles at further advancing currencies, Tls. 2.90 *a* 3.15 have been freely paid, and in many cases holders, who are very firm, demand Tls. 3.50 for good assortments.

COALS.—The market has improved, several sales have been effected both from godown and to arrive, at an advance on previous quotations. Most of the stored Coal has been sold to consumers, leaving but a small stock on hand. We see a Company has been formed in London with a capital of £300,000 to supply India, China, and Japan, with Coals from the collieries of New South Wales. If carried out, we may look for more regular supplies and less exorbitant rates. Cardiff, sales at Tls. 11.50 *a* 12.50 per ton from godown; by cargo, Tls. 11.25 *a* 11.75; English, no stocks; American, sales Tls. 13 from ship; Australian—Sydney—to arrive, Tls. 10; Newcastle, no stock; Japan, supplies very limited; Formosa, cargoes, to arrive, Tls. 7.25 per ton. The arrivals since our last—270 tons Nagasaki, and 657 tons American Anthracite.

FREIGHTS.—Business is restricted by the small quantity of tonnage in our waters. Charters effected have been to Whampoa or Swatow—to the latter port, rates show an advance of 25 cents per picul. A good enquiry exists for vessels for the Northern ports, but nothing settled. The market closes firm, and a further advance is anticipated. Rates rule—Chefoo to Swatow, $ 0.90 cents. per picul; Shanghai to Swatow, 80 cents.; Swatow and back, $ 1.00; Shanghai to Whampoa, 52 *a* 53 cents.; Chinkiang to Whampoa (sailing craft), 69 cents., steamers, 52 *a* 55 cents.; to Foochow and back, $ 6 *a* 7 per ton; Keelung and back, (coal) $ 4.25; Nagasaki and back, $ 4.25.

For London, *Glaucus*, str., leaves to-day. No vessel on the berth.

For New York, *Ethiopian*, gone. No vessel on the berth.

EXCHANGE.—Down another halfpenny. Bank paper, 6 months' sight, 6s. 0½d. *a* 0¾d.; First Class Credits to Banks, 6s. 1¼d.; to Private Buyers, 6s. 1d.; Private and Documentary, 6s. 1¼d.; on India, Bombay and Calcutta, 3 days' sight, 305½; on Hongkong, Bank paper demand, 27¾ discount; Private, 15 days' sight, 28¼.; Mexican dollars, Sh. Tls. 75.25 per 100.

SPANISH STRIPES, *C.P.H.*—				
Scarlet	₱ yd.	0.7.0	to	.....
Dark Blue	,,	0.5.9	,,	.....
Orange	,,	0.4.8	,,	.....
Gentian	,,	0.6.1	,,	.....
Green	,,	0.5.6	,,	.....
Ash	,,	0.6.2	,,	.....
White	,,	0.5.7	,,	.....
Purple	,,	0.5.2	,,	.....
Black	,,	0.6.2	,,	.....
Brown	,,	0.5.2	,,	.....
LONG ELLS, *C.P.H.*—				
Scarlet	₱ pc.	6.3.5	to	0.6.4
Dark Blue	,,	5.3.0	,,	.....
Orange	,,	4.2.0	,,	.....
Gentian	,,	4.6.0	,,	.....
Green	,,	5.3.0	,,	5.4.0
Purple	,,	5.0.0	,,	.....
Black	,,	5.0.0	,,	.....
CAMLETS, *C.P.H.—S.S.*				
Scarlet	₱ pc.	15.5.5	to	.....
Dark Blue	,,	14.3.0	,,	.....
Orange	,,	14.0.0	,,	.....
Gentian	,,	15.6.0	,,	.....
Green	,,	13.7.0	,,	.....
White	,,	12.5.0	,,	.....
Purple	,,	13.4.0	,,	.....
Black	,,	12.0.0	,,	.....

Estimated stocks to the evening of the 27th instant shew the following:—

Grey Shirtings	2,972,000	pieces.
T.-Cloths	1,357,000	,,
White Shirtings	292,000	,,
Drills,—English	108,200	,,
American	27,700	,,
Dutch	74,700	,,
Jeans,—English	58,500	,,
American	850	,,
Dutch	3,300	,,
Sheetings,—English	38,500	,,
American	5,940	,,
Dutch	Nil	,,
Dyed Shirtings	21,600	,,
Spotted do. (White)	11,600	,,
Ditto do. (Dyed)	10,400	,,
Brocades (White)	7,100	,,
Ditto (Dyed)	31,200	,,
Chintzes	127,300	,,
Damasks	1,200	,,
Turkey Red	49,100	,,
Velvets	5,300	,,
Velveteens	25,600	,,
Handkerchiefs	134,700	doz.
Muslins	1,300	pieces.
Dimities	20,400	,,
Spanish Stripes	21,700	,,
Medium Cloth &c	28,800	,,
Camlets (English)	27,700	,,
(Continental)	3,550	,,
Long Ells	110,000	,,
Lastings	17,300	,,
Crape Lastinge	16,900	,,
Lustres, Orleans Plain / Figured and Craped	144,500	,,

The above figures are exclusive of Cargoes imported per P. & O. str. *Malacca* and M. M. str. *Provence*, *Surprise*, and *Carmarthenshire*, and of sundry re-export cargoes to date not yet published.

QUOTATIONS, DUTY PAID IN SHANGHAI SYCEE.

Exchange on London 6 m/s Bank Bills 6s. 0½*d.* ₱ Tl.

COTTON PIECE GOODS:		*T.m.c.*		*T.m.c*
G. E. GREY SHIRTINGS,				
38½ yds. 39 in. 7lbs.	₱ pc.	1.7.3	to	1.7.7
8¼ to 8½ lbs.	,,	1.8.9	,,	1.9.7
9 lbs.	per	2.2.5	*a*	2.4.5
9 10/12 lbs.	,,	2.7.5	,,	2.8.5
G. E. WHITE SHIRTINGS.				
40 yds, 36 in. 56 Reed	₱ pc.	1.8.2	,,	1.8.8
60 ,,	,,	1.9.5	,,	2.0.0
64 ,,	,,	2.0.5	,,	2.1.5
66 to 72 reed	,,	2.2.0	,,	2.6.0
AMERICAN DRILLS,—				
40 yds. 30 in. 15lbs....per piece		3.2.0	,,	3.3.0
AMERICAN JEANS,—				nom.
30 yds. 30 in. 8½lbs...per piece		2.4.0	,,	nom.
AMERICAN SHEETINGS,—				
40 yds. 40 in. 15lbs...per piece		4.1.0	,,	nom.
ENGLISH DRILLS,—				
40 yds. 30in. 14 *a* 15lbs. per piece		3.0.5	,,	3.1.2
ENGLISH JEANS, 8lbs....	,,	2.2.7	,,	2.3.2
DUTCH DRILLS,—				
30inch. 40 yds.....per piece		2.9.7	,,	3.1.2
DUTCH JEANS,—				
30 inch. 30 yds. .....per piece		2.3.5	,,	2.4.5
T-CLOTHS—6lbs., 24 yds.32 in. Ordinary...per piece		1.2.3	,,	1.3.0
7 lbs., do. do. ... ,,		1.4.2	,,	1.4.8
6 lbs. Mex. .....per piece		1.4.3	,,	1.4.8
7 lbs.	,,	1.6.0	,,	1.6.8
8 to 8¼ lbs.....	,,	1.8.2	,,	1.9.0
		X X 2.1.5	,,	2.2.3
HANDKERCHIEFS, Blue 28in.	₱ dz.	0.5.8	,,	0.6.5
Brown	,,	0.4.0	,,	0.5.5
WHITE FIGURED SHIRTINGS	₱ pc.	2.2.0	,,	2.2.5
Dyed	,,	2.6.5	,,	2.8.0
BROCADES—				
White 40 yds	₱ pc.	2.2.0	,,	2.2.5
Dyed	,,	2.7.0	,,	2.9.0
DAMASKS, Dyed, 40 yds. ...	,,	4.8.0	,,	5.0.0
GENTIAN SHIRTINGS	,,	2.5.0	,,	2.6.0
CHINTZ—				
Assorted	₱ pc.	1.3.0	,,	1.6.0
Blue and Brown	,,	1.1.0	,,	1.2.0
Scarlet	,,	1.4.5	,,	1.7.5
TURKEY REDS, 24 yds. 3lbs.	,,	1.9.0	,,	2.0.5
Do. Best	,,	2.2.5	,,	2.6.0
VELVETS—				
Black, 22 in.	₱ yd.	0.2.2½	,,	0.2.5
VELVETEENS—				
Black, 18 in.	,,	0.1.0½	,,	0.1.3½
26 in.	,,	0.1.6	,,	0.1.9
DIMITIES, 12 yds. 37 in. ...	₱ pc.	0.9.5	,,	1.1.0
MUSLINS, 12 yds. 42 in. ...	,,	0.9.0	,,	1.0.0
CAMLETS, English—				
S S	,,	14.0.0	,,	15.0.0
G G	,,	15.0.0	,,	.....
S S, G	,,	14.8.5	,,	14.9.0
MEDIUM BROAD AND HABIT CLOTH	,,	0.8.5	,,	1.5.0
SPANISH STRIPES	₱ yd.	0.5.7	,,	0.6.4
T. T.-B	,,	0.6.4	,,	.....
LONG ELLS—				
Scarlet, 24 yds. H H	₱ pc.	6.3.5	,,	.....
,, C P H	,,	6.3.5	,,	6.4.0
Assorted, H H	,,	5.5.0	,,	5.6.0
,, C P H	,,	5.6.0	,,	.....
,, G G	,,	5.6.0	,,	.....
LASTINGS, 30 yds.	,,	9.5.0	,,	12.0.0
CRAPE LASTINGS, 30 yds.	,,	7.0.0	,,	7.3.0
CRAPE LUSTRES	,,	3.6.0	,,	3.8.0
ORLEANS—				
Figured, 30 yds.	₱ pc.	3.8.5	,,	4.1.5
Do. "Spot" Patterns		4.2.5	,,	4.4.0
IRON—				
Nail Rod small sizes	₱ pl.	3 1.5	,,	3.2.0
Fair to good assortments.	,,	2.9.0	,,	3.1.0
Hoop	,,	2.5.0	,,	2.9.0
Flat	,,	2.8.0	,,	2.9.0
Round	,,	2.8.0	,,	3.0.0
LEAD L. B.	,,	4.9.0	,,	5.0.0
Common	,,	4.6.0	,,	4.7.0
TIN PLATES	₱ box	4.9.0	,,	.....
STEEL	₱ tub	3.0.0	,,	4.0.0
FLINTS	₱ pl.	0.4.0	,,	0.5.0
WINDOW GLASS	₱ box	2.0.0	,,	2.2.0
PEPPER—				
Black	₱ pl.	8.8.0	*a*	9.0.0
White	,,	17.0.0	,,	18.0.0
BETEL NUT—				
Cochin China	₱ pl	2.5.0	,,	3.0.0
Singapore	,,	1.8.0	,,	2.4.0
SANDAL WOOD—				
Best picked	₱ pl.	3.2.5	,,	3.5.0
South Sea Island	,,	3.2.0	,,	.....
Malabar	,,	12.0.0	,,	14.0.0
TIN—				
Straits	₱ pl	23.0.0	*a*	25.5.0
Malacca	,,	29.0.0	,,	29.5 0
SUGAR—				
Black, Swatow & Amoy ...	₱ pl.	2.1.0	,,	2.4.5
Formosa	,,	2.1.0	,,	2.4.0
Brown Hainan	,,	2.8.0	,,	3.0.0
Formosa & Amoy	,,	2.6.0	,,	.....
Swatow	,,	2.6.0	,,	2.7.0
Canton	,,	2.6.0	*a*	3.0.0
Manila	,,	2.8.0	,,	3.0.0
White, common to fair ...	,,	3.5.0	,,	4.0.0
medium	,,	5.5.0	,,	5.8.0
fine to finest	,,	6.0.0	,,	.....
COALS—Cargo quotations from ship				
Cardiff	₱ ton.	11.5.0	to	.....
English	,,	10.30	,,	.....
American	,,	13.0.0	,,	.....
Sydney	,,	9.5.0	,,	10.00
Newcastle	,,	10.0.0	,,	.....
Japan (Karatz)	,,	7.0.0	,,	.....
Formosa	,,	6.6.0	,,	.....

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EXPORTS.

TEA.—We have again to report a very limited business.

Our Export to date as compared with that of last season isas follows:—

To Great Britain	Black	8,488,000 lbs.	Excess.	
Do.	Green	375,000	,,	,,
To America	Black	277,000	,,	,,
Do.	Green	1,720,000	,,	,,

BLACK.—Transactions during the fortnight consist of 2 chops common Ningchow at Tls. 17 and 18. Settlements 547 chests. Stock 586 chests against 5,600 chests last year.

Prices paid have been—

Ex. 6s. 1d. Freight £3.10 per 40 feet.

Ningchows ..... Tls. 17 *a* 18=1s. 0½d. *a* 1s. 1d. per lb.

GREEN.—A small business in common kinds is all we have to report. We quote no change in prices. The *Ethiopian* (full) will be the last vessel of the season for New York, and what little Tea may yet go forward to London will be carried in the Suez Canal steamers. Our stock is composed of undesirable qualities.

Settlements—

					Against 1871.
Shanghai packed	75 ½-chests.	Stock—	700 ½-chests.		1,800 ½-chests.
Fychows and Moyunes	2,500 ,,		2,100 ,,		10,900 ,,
Total.....	2,575 ,,		2,800 ,,		12,700 ½-chests.

Prices paid have been :—

	London Ex. 6s. 1d. Freight £3.10.	New York Ex. 6s. 1d. Freight £4.
Shanghai packed	Tls. 48 *a* ... =2s. 7¾d. *a* ... per lb.	=83¼ *a* ... cts. D.P.
Fychows, Moyunes, &c.	Tls. 24½ *a* 40½=1s. 5¼d. *a* 2s. 3d.	,, =51¾ *a* 73 ,, ,,

Export to Great Britain is as under—

	1871-72.		1870-71.
BLACK.....	*72,130,604 lbs.	...	61,642,390 lbs.
GREEN	7,873,974 ,,	...	7,498,485 ,,
	80,004,578 lbs.	...	69,140,875 lbs.
Export to United States and Canada—			
BLACK.....	1,896,639 lbs.	...	618,877 lbs.
GREEN	19,790,458 ,,	...	18,069,745 ,,
	21,687,097 lbs.	...	18,688,622 lbs.

SILK.—Owing to a fall in exchange and the weakness of native dealers, an extensive business for the time of the year has been done during the past fortnight, notwithstanding less satisfactory news from home. Settlements are estimated at 1,000 bales, making total for season 47,100 bales. Every available kind of good Silk on the market has been enquired for, for Europe or America, and the settlements show a fair proportion of all sorts. The anxiety to buy at the present reduced rates, has been so great that some parcels previously rejected have, we hear, found purchasers.

Stock of unsold Silk estimated at about 1,000 bales

The following are some of the settlements :—

Koo-fong-sing Chop, No. 3	Tls.	585
King John	,,	565 & 570
Black Lion, No. 2 & 3	,,	550 & 530
Cat	,,	535
Grasshopper.....	,,	530
Blue Elephant	,,	510 & 520
Green do.	,,	480
Cat and Bee "Choey-ling"	,,	520 & 525
Incense, No. 3½	,,	525
Red Peacock	,,	505
Ching-young-sin's Kashing, "Ting-how"	,,	520

QUOTATIONS.

	Taels per picul.	Sterling Cost per lb. laid down in London at Exchange 6/1 per Tael.		Francs p. kilo. laid down in Lyons at Exchange		Telegraphic London value per lb. 26th Feb.	
		s. d.	s. d.	Fr.	Fr.	s. d.	s. d.
Teatlee.—Chop No 1.....	Nominal	.....		.....		30 6	*a* 31 0
,, ,, 2.....	Nominal	.....		.....		29 6	*a* 30 0
,, ,, 3.....	585 *a* ...	31 0	*a* ...	.....		28 6	*a* 29 0
,, ,, 3½.....	550 *a* 560	29 3	*a* 29 9	.....		27 6	*a* 28 0
Ordinary No. 3½ and *Chop* No. 4	530 *a* 540	28 0	*a* 28 9	.....		26 6	*a* 27 0
Ordinary No. 4	510 *a* 520	27 0	*a* 27 6	.....		25 6	*a* 26 0
,, ,, 5 & com.	460 *a* 490	24 6	*a* 26 0	.....		22 0	*a* 24 6
Karshing / *Taysaam* Chop No. 1.....	520 *a* 530	27 6	*a* 28 0	.....		26 6	*a* 27 6
,, ,, 2.....	500 *a* 510	26 6	*a* 27 0	.....		25 0	*a* 25 6
,, ,, 3.....	470 *a* 480	25 0	*a* 25 6	.....		23 0	*a* 24 0
,, ,,4, 5 & com.	430 *a* 440	22 9	*a* 23 6	.....		20 0	*a* 22 6
Chin Cum / *& Coarse* / *Taysaams* No. 1	None	.....		.....		None	
,, 2	None	.....		.....		20 6	*a* 21 0
,, 3	390 *a* 400	20 9	*a* 21 3	.....		19 0	*a* 20 0
,, 4, & com.	370 *a* 380	19 9	*a* 20 3	.....		18 0	*a* 19 0
Yuenfa, and *hainings*,... Chop No. 1.....	None	.....		.....		26 0	*a* 26 6
,, ,, 2.....	480 *a* 490	25 6	*a* 26 0	.....		25 0	*a* 25 6
,, ,, 3.....	450 *a* 460	24 0	*a* 24 6	.....		24 0	*a* 24 6
,, 4 & com....	420 *a* 440	22 3	*a* 23 6	.....		21 0	*a* 23 6
Hangchow Teatlee	460 *a* 470	24 6	*a* 25 0	.....		23 0	*a* 24 6
Laeyongs (Skeins)	380 *a* 390	20 3	*a* 20 9	.....		18 6	*a* 20 0
Sewhings (Taysaam long reel)	None	....		.....		19 6	*a* 21 0
Throwns, (Trams.)	480 *a* 500	25 6	*a* 26 6	.....		23 6	*a* 25 0
Re-reeled Hainings.....	545 *a* 620	29 0	*a* 33 0	.....		26 6	*a* 29 0
Do. Tsatlees	530 *a* 600	28 0	*a* 32 0	.....		26 0	*a* 27 0
Szechuens, fair to fine	360 *a* 400	19 3	*a* 21 3	.....		None	
Do. common	230 *a* 300	12 6	*a* 16 3	.....		None	

OPIUM.—Since date of our last, there has been a good enquiry for Malwa, and rates show some slight improvement; there has also been a fair business done in Bengal drug.

Malwa was last quoted closing quiet at Tls. 462 per picul with 1½ catties allowance. This rate brought buyers, and large sales have been made at Tls. 462 *a* 65; the dealers have about supplied their present requirements and demand is again rather slack. The mail steamer in yesterday brought supplies, consequently much business cannot be looked for, for a few days, and unless more favorable advices are received from the North and the River Ports, we scarcely expect to see present rates maintained. The market closes quiet at Tls. 465 per picul with 1 to 1½ catties allowance on good drug. The estimated stock is 3,149 chests, of which 1,000 chests is bargained Opium.

Patna.—Closing quotations in our last were Tls. 50 per chest cash for old drug. During the fortnight cash transactions have been on a fair scale, but only a few sales have been made on time. On the first arrival of new drug sales were made at about Tls. 10 higher than old, say Tls. 520, but the drug has proved lighter in weight and slightly inferior in quality, and a decline in rates has been the result. We now quote *Old Patna* Tls. 506 *a* 7 cash, Tls. 502 time; *New Patna* Tls. 500 *a* 2 cash, Tls. 497 time, quiet.

Benares was last quoted Tls. 505 per chest quiet for old. There has been as usual only a moderate enquiry for this description and we now quote *Old* Tls. 493, *New* Tls. 495 quiet. The stock of *Patna* and *Benares* is estimated at 1,689 chests.

Turkey and *Persian* no enquiry.

Stock on 13th Feb.....	2,759½	1,561	4,320½
Receipts since	1,289½	539	1,828½
Total...	4,049	2,100	6,149
Deliveries from 13th to 28th Feb.	899½	411	1,310½
Stock at this date	3,149½	1,689	4,838½

Bargained Opium 1,000 chests.

LIST OF SILK SHIPPERS.

From 1st June 1871 to 27th February,	1872.
Adamson, Bell and Co.....	1,151
Blain and Co.	60
Barnet and Co.	1,550
Birley, Worthington and Co.....	1,212
Birt & Co.	489
Borntraeger and Co.....	231
Bourjau, Hubener and Co.	273
Bovet, Brothers and Co.	408
Bower, Hanbury and Co.....	1,778
Brand, Brothers and Co.	2,039
Bull, Purdon and Co	32
Butterfield & Swire.....	593
Essex and Co.	1,439
Fogg & Co.	353
Findlay, Wade and Co.	120
Gamwell, F. R.	777
Gibb, Livingston and Co.	1,460
Gilman and Co.	2,519
Heard, Augustine, and Co.	716
Helbling, J. C. and Co.....	375
Hogg, Brothers	838
Jardine, Matheson and Co.	719
Jarvie, John, and Co.	1,783
Lacroix Cous. & Co.	1,902
Lindsay & Head.....	110
Maertens, A. H.	570
Milsom and Tod, ...	1,250
Nachtrieb, A., and Co.	1325
Pila and Co.....	769
Pustau, Wm. and Co. Co.....	134
Reiss and Co.	1,281
Robison, J. S.....	65
Russell and Co.	907
Sassoon, David, Sons and Co.....	1,882
Scheibler, Matthaei and Co.....	332
Shaw, Brothers and Co.	1,128
Siemssen and Co.....	436
Skeggs, C. J. and Co.	4,425
Telge Nolting & Co.	237
Textor and Co.	2,635
Thorne, Brothers and Co.....	407
Turner & Co.....	297
Vaucher Freres	18
Westall, Brand and Co.....	465
Wright Burkill and Co.	625
Sundries	4,186
Total Bales.....	**46,292**

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EXCHANGE AND BULLION.

Rates opened weak for this mail and gradually fell to 6s. 0½d. and 6s. 0¾d. credit paper, at which rates the bulk of the business was done. From this point they took a sudden jump to 6s. 1d. Bank and 6s. 1½d. Credits. They have however again declined, and close weak at quotations.

On London— Per Tael.
Bank Bills, 6 months' sight 6s. ¾d.
Credits, ,, ,, 6s. 1d. *a* 6s. 1¼d.
Doc. Bills, 6 months' sight...6s. 1¼d.

On Calcutta—
Bank Bills, 3 days' sight...Rs.—305½

On Bombay—
Bank Bills, 3 days' sight...Rs.—305½

On Hongkong—
Bank Bills, demand.....27½ ⅌ cent. disct.
Private, 15 days' sight—28.

BULLION.

GOLD BARS.—Pekin, 98 touch, Tls. 166.50 per bar of 10 Taels Shanghai weight.

BAR SILVER.—Tls. 111.30 Shanghai Taels, per 100 Taels Canton weight.

MEXICAN DOLLARS.—75.25 CAROLUS—77.30

COPPER CASH.—1,590 per Tael.

MONETARY AND COMMERCIAL.

SHARE MARKET

Stock.	Shares	Paid Up.	Dividend	Closing Quotation.
	£	£	£	£
Banks.				
Agra Bank		10	8 p.c.	7½ Noml.
Comptoir d'Escte. de Paris.....	20	20	5½ p.c.	..
Chartd. Bk. of India, Autr. & Ch.	20	20	6 p.c.	14 Noml.
Chartd. Mer. Bk. of India, London and China.....	25	25	6 p.c.	25 Noml.
Oriental Bank	£25	£25	12 p.c.	45 ,,
H'kong and S'hai Bank,....Old ..	$125	125	1 p.c.	62 ⅌ prm.
Do. do. New..		100	12 p.c.	59
Steamer Cos.	Tls.	Tls.		Tls.
S. S. N. Co.				
,, Stock....	100	100	12 p.c.	155
,, Scrip 1871		20		26
Union S. N. Co. ..	100	100	12 p.c.	86
North-China Str. Co.	100	100	—	69
China Sea Saigon & Strts. S. S. Co.	$100	50		50 Noml.
China and Straits S. N. Co.....	100	2		25 Noml.
Docks.				Tl.
Shanghai Dock Co.	Tl. 500	Tl. 500	4 p.c.	180
Pootung Dock Co.	3,000	3,000	None.	1500 Noml.
Gas				
Shanghai Gas Co.	100	100	12 p.c.	Tl. 142
French Gas Co. ..	50	50	10 p.c.	63½
H'kong and China Gas Co. Limited	£10	£10	10 p.c.	Noml.
Insurance.				
China Traders' Co. Limited.....	$1,000	1,000	475 p.ab.	$ 3500
North-China Insce. Co	Tls. 1,000	Tl. 200	Trienial	460
Union Insce. Socy. of Canton	$5,000	1,000	Trienial	2,500 Noml.
Yuze Insce. Assn..	Tl. 500	Tl. 500	15 p.c.	Tl. 835
China & Japan Marine Insce. Co...	500	100	12 p.c.	Tl. 190
Chinese Ins. Co. Limited.....	$1,500	200	....	$155 prm.
H'kong Fire Insce. Co. Limited	$1,000	200	12 p.c.	,, 355 ,,
Victoria do.	500	100	12 p.c.	,, 66 ,,
China Fire Insce. Co. Limited	500	100	12 p.c.	,, 60 ,,
Miscellaneous.				
S. T. & Lighter Co.	Tl. 850	Tl. 850	7 p.c.	Tl. 400
Hongkew Wharf Co.	100	100		Tl. 155 ex. dev.
Soochow Bridge Co.	100	100	15 p.c. & bonus.	200 Noml.
S'hai Racket Club	120	120	5 p.c.	80 ,,
Recreation Fund..	$50		None.	20 ,,
Bridge of Boats (Ningpo)	500	500	12 p.c.	410

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PUBLIC AND PRIVATE GAS WORKS ERECTED IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD.
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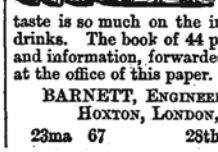
His Highness the NIZAM, Secunderabad, India; the SULTAN of TURKEY; and VICEROY of EGYPT.

Club, Mess, and General Furnishing Orders for Glass, China and Earthenware, promptly executed.

ESTIMATES AND DESIGNS FREE.

J. DEFRIES & SONS,
Manufacturers to Her Majesty the Queen His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and Contractors to Government.

City Show Room and Principal Depôt—
147, HOUNDSDITCH, LONDON.
Works: LONDON, BIRMINGHAM, and PARIS.
Established 1803.
o-a-f 6ju 44 June 16th, 1871.

The BEST INVESTMENT of the DAY for a SMALL OUTLAY,

And where there is no previous knowledge of the business required, is a Lemonade, Ginger Beer, and Soda Water Machine, as the public taste is so much on the increase for Aerated drinks. The book of 44 pages of illustrations and information, forwarded free, or can be had at the office of this paper.
BARNETT, ENGINEER, 23, FORSTON-ST. HOXTON, LONDON, ENGLAND.
23ma 67 28th December, 1871.

CAUTION.
STEEDMAN'S SOOTHING POWDERS for Children cutting their teeth. Purchasers are requested to
BEWARE OF IMITATIONS
of this Medicine, and to observe, in every case, that the words "JOHN STEEDMAN, CHEMIST, WALWORTH, SURREY," are engraved on the Government Stamp affixed to each packet, without which none are genuine. Sold by all Chemists and Druggists, in Shanghai, IN PACKETS.
7fe 17 Feb. 29th, 1872.

CROSSE & BLACKWELL'S
CELEBRATED
OILMEN'S STORES,
ALL WARRANTED OF SUPERIOR QUALITY.

Pickles, Sauces, Syrups.
Jams, in tins and jars.
Orange Marmalade.
Tart Fruits, Dessert Fruits.
"Ponçons," Lisbon Apricots and Peaches
Mustard, Vinegar.
Fruits in Brandy and Noyeau.
Potted Meats and Fish.
Fresh Salmon, Oysters and Herrings.
Kippered Salmon and Herrings.
Herrings à la Sardine.
Pickled Salmon.
Yarmouth Bloaters.
Blackwall Whitebait.
Fresh and Findon Haddocks.
Pure Salad Oil.
Soups in pint and quart tins.
Preserved Meats in tins.
Peas, Carrots, Beans and other Vegetables.
Preserved Hams and Cheese.
Preserved Bacon.
Oxford and Cambridge Sausages.
Bologna Sausages.
Yorkshire Game Pâtés.
Yorkshire Pork Pâtés.
Tongues, Game, Poultry.
Plum Puddings.
"Lea & Perrins'" Worcestershire Sauce.

Fresh supplies of the above and numerous other table delicacies may always be had from most Storekeepers.

CAUTION.
Jars and Bottles should *invariably be destroyed* when empty, to prevent the fraud of refilling them with native productions.
Goods should always be examined upon delivery, to detect any attempt at substitution of articles of inferior brands.

Every Cork is branded with Crosse & Blackwell's name.

Crosse & Blackwell,
Purveyors to the Queen,
SOHO SQUARE, LONDON.
At the Paris Exhibition of 1867, *Three* Prize Medals were awarded to CROSSE & BLACKWELL for the marked superiority of their productions.
(2) 23my 40 May 26th, 1871.

NORTH-CHINA HERALD
AND
Supreme Court and Consular Gazette.

NOTICE is hereby given that to enable the accounts to fall due on an uniform date, subscription accounts will be made out up to end of December current.
Subscriptions are payable in advance.
Subscribers at out-ports are requested to send cheques or orders on some resident in Shanghai.

J. BROADHURST TOOTAL,
North-China Herald Office.
1871.

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PACIFIC MAIL S. S. Co.'s NOTICE.

THROUGH U. S. MAIL LINE
FROM
CHINA & JAPAN TO NEW YORK.

PACIFIC MAIL S. S. Co.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE
CENTRAL AND UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANIES.

THE Steamship "*AMERICA*," Capt. ——— will leave YOKOHAMA for SAN FRANCISCO, on or about 23rd *March*, taking Passengers, Mails, Freight, &c., for the United States, Canada, Central and South America, and Europe.

The Company's Steamship *Oregonian* Capt. DEARBORN, will leave Shanghai on or about 12th *March viâ* the Inland Sea Ports, connecting at Yokohama with the above named Steamer.

The Steamer will be due at San Francisco on or about 16th *April*, whence daily Passenger trains and daily Freight trains are run over the Central and Union Pacific Railroad Lines for New York and for all the principal cities in the interior, and upon the Atlantic sea-board.

At NEW YORK, Passengers have selection of various lines of Steamers to England, France and Germany.

Through Tickets and Bills of Lading will be issued for transportation to San Francisco, and thence by the Overland Railroad, and to Europe by connecting lines of Steamers.

Through First-Class Passengers purchasing Tickets to points beyond San Francisco, are allowed 250 pounds of Baggage Free.

Through Passenger Trains run daily between San Francisco and New York, making the Trip in Six Days and Twenty Hours.

☞ Distance, 3,312 Miles. ☜

The SILVER PALACE SLEEPING CARS are run daily from SAN FRANCISCO to NEW YORK. These DRAWING ROOM CARS by day and SLEEPING CARS by night, are unexcelled for comfort, convenience and elegance.

THROUGH FARES.

SHANGHAI to NEW YORK $428.50
Do. to EUROPE 490.00
And upward, depending upon Lines selected.

To New York or Intermediate points:—

Children not over Twelve (12) years of age, Half Fare; under Five (5) years of age, Free.

Passenger Tickets should be procured at this Agency, as, if purchased on board, an additional 10 per cent will be charged on the usual rates.

In future this Agency will require but one extra copy of Bills of Lading.

Consignees will please endorse Bills of Lading before presenting them for countersignature.

Teas, Silks, and other cargo taken for the United States or Europe on very favorable terms.

The OVERLAND RAILROAD COMPANIES *Guarantee* 12 days' time for Silk, and 18 days for Teas and Merchandise, between SAN FRANCISCO and NEW YORK.

Tables of rates of Freight by any of the above routes, furnished on application to any Agent of this Company.

GEO. F. BOWMAN,
Z *Agent.*
14de-72 102 Shanghai, 13th Oct., 1871

NORTH-CHINA HERALD
AND
SUPREME COURT & CONSULAR GAZETTE.

FOR EXTRA COPIES on Mail and other days, applicants are particularly requested to let their orders be Compradore Orders—@ per Copy, *mace 2 cand. 5*

J. BROADHURST TOOTAL.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL.....$5,000,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL 4,500,000
RESERVED FUND..... 900,000

COURT OF DIRECTORS.
Chairman—Hon. R. ROWETT.
Deputy-Chairman—T. PYKE, Esq.

G. J. HELLAND, Esq.	G. F. WELLER, Esq.
S. D. SASSOON, Esq.	JULIUS MENKE, Esq.
A. JOOST, Esq.	WM. LEMANN, Esq.
E. R. BELILIOS, Esq.	

HEAD-OFFICE, HONGKONG.
Branches—

London.	Yokohama.
Bombay.	Hiogo.
Calcutta.	Hankow.
Foochow.	

London Bankers—LONDON AND COUNTY BANK.

SHANGHAI BRANCH.

Interest allowed on Current Accounts at 2% on daily balances.
On Fixed Deposits, for 12 months, at 6%
" " " " 6 " " 5%
" " " " 3 " " 3%
Local Bills Discounted.

Credits granted on approved Securities, and every description of Banking and Exchange business transacted.

Drafts granted on the Chief Commercial places in Europe, India, Australia, America, China and Japan.

DAVID McLEAN,
31de-72 *Manager.*
(c. a.) 102 Z 23rd Aug., 1871.

NOTICE.

THE undermentioned *Banks* hereby intimate to the Public generally that the only persons authorised to make contracts on their behalf, of any kind whatsoever, are their respective *Managers* or other legally authorised representatives.

No Chinese employés whatever have any authority to negotiate or conclude any business arrangements on behalf of the said *Corporations.*

For the Chartered Mercantile Bank of India, London and China.
R. B. BAKER,
Manager.

For the Comptoir D'Escompte de Paris.
A. KAUFFMANN,
Manager.

For the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.
D. McLEAN,
Manager.

(c. a.) Z
31de-72 7 Shanghai, 1st Jan., 1871.

China Traders' Insurance Co.
(*LIMITED.*)

NOTICE.

IN conformity with the Special Resolutions adopted and confirmed at the Extraordinary Meetings of Shareholders held on the 1st and 15th instant, altering Clauses Nos. 130, 131, 132, and 133 of the Articles of Association (such changes to take effect from 1st November 1871), the Net Profits of the Company will, from that date, be distributed as follows, viz:—

Two-thirds (⅔) to all Contributors, whether Shareholders or not, in proportion to the net amount of premia contributed by each.

One-third (⅓) to Shareholders generally, according to the number of Shares held by each.

AUGUSTINE HEARD & Co.,
General Agents.
25mar 554 Hongkong, 16th Feb., 1872.

THE SCOTTISH IMPERIAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

LIFE BRANCH.

THE Directors, having considered the question of risks attending residence in Shanghai, and any part of China, North of 30° North Latitude, have Reduced the rates to the Lowest Terms consistent with security and considerably below any hitherto offered. The new tables may be obtained on application to the undersigned, who are prepared to issue Policies under the new scale.

FIRE BRANCH.

Risks on Buildings or Goods are also taken at current rates.

GEO. BARNET & Co.,
Agents.
88 8ju 72 Shanghai, 9th Jan., 1872.

Guardian Fire and Life Assurance Company,

No. 11 LOMBARD STREET, LONDON (E.C.)
ESTABLISHED 1821,
And Empowered by Special Acts of Parliament.
SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL—£2,000,000, STERLING.

THE undersigned, having been duly appointed Agents of the above Company, are prepared to accept risks against Fire on the usual terms.

OLYPHANT & Co.
tf 105 Shanghai, 1st Jan., 1872.

THE CHINESE INSURANCE COMPANY (LIMITED.)

CAPITAL—1,500,000 DOLLARS, IN 1,500 SHARES OF 1,000 DOLLARS EACH.

PAID UP CAPITAL—300,000 DOLLARS.

MARINE POLICIES granted to all parts of the World, at current rates. In addition to the usual brokerage, Thirty-three and one-third per cent (33⅓%) of the profits of the Company will be distributed annually as a Bonus among Contributing Shareholders, proportionately to the amount of premia paid by them.

OLYPHANT & Co.,
Agents.
tf 3529 Shanghai, 28th Dec., 1871.

HONGKONG INSURANCE COMPANY, 1871-74.

THE Undersigned, as Agents of the above Company, are prepared to accept MARINE RISKS at the rates charged by the Local Offices.

Silk per Ocean Steam-Ship Company is insured by this office at 32/6 per cent., including Average as customary, and the usual discount.

CHAPMAN, KING & Co.
tf 104 Shanghai, 1st Jan., 1872.

The British & Foreign Marine Insurance Company (Limited.)

THE undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company at this Port, Hongkong, Foochow, and Yokohama, are prepared to accept risks at Current Rates, allowing a discount of 15 per cent.

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,
n o-a-w 30se-72 Z *Agents.*
(c. a.) 2590 Shanghai, 1st Oct., 1871.

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